FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 DECEMBER 1986

Israel

USSR Contacts — Reporting on the outcome of "secret contacts" between senior Israeli and Soviet diplomats, IDF radio said the Soviet Union has been showing interest in resuming official talks with Israel with the hope of establishing consular ties in return for the USSR's incorporation in the regional peace process. The Soviets suggested some form of follow-up to the Helsinki talks and indicated a readiness on their side to reconsider policy on the emigration of Soviet Jews. They also explained that the Soviet Union has been reassessing its Middle East policy, noting that the USSR's exclusive support for Syria is preventing it from playing a wider role in the Middle East political process.

Syrian CW Issue — The IDF is making efforts to step up its deterrent capability against Syrian chemical weapons, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. He told the Knesset that Syria's chemical weapons include warheads mounted on surface-to-surface missiles.

U.S.-Iran Affair — Responding to U.S. Colonel Oliver North's reported statement that he briefed Israeli official 'Amiran Nir on the destination of the money from the Iran arms deal, the prime minister's office announced that this is "completely unfounded" and that Nir had no idea that money from the deal was intended for the Nicaraguan contras, IDF radio reported.

Egypt

In remarks cited by MENA, President Husni Mubarak declared that he accepts "threats" from no one, though he doubted that a message received from the Israeli prime minister on Mubarak's stance against an expanded Israeli settlement policy was meant as a "warning," as reported by the Tel Aviv paper *Ma'Ariv*. Mubarak told journalists that Egypt has held contacts with both Israel and Jordan in an attempt to agree on a "formula" for Palestinian representation at an international conference and he said that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is welcome to come to Cairo for discussions on the issue. On the subject of efforts for economic reform, Mubarak stressed that the imposition of "burdens" by the IMF is unacceptable, and he hoped that an agreement can be reached next year.

Within the framework of talks on economic cooperation with the USSR, President Mubarak received a delegation headed by the chairman of the Soviet state bank, TASS reported.

Lebanon

Amal-Palestinian clashes continued in Beirut and near Sidon 2-3 December, Beirut radio reported, noting that efforts are continuing in Damascus to find a solution. A PLO military statement broadcast by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio said the Palestinians repulsed an Amal attack on Shatila spearheaded by tanks and other armored vehicles. A Palestinian official cited by Voice of Lebanon radio accused Amal of murdering Palestinian civilians in Beirut and stated that some 5,000 Palestinian families have been displaced by the fighting.

Iran

USSR Relations — Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet Chairman Suleyman Tatliyev told the Iranian ambassador to the USSR that Iran is dealing "fateful blows" to imperialism, IRNA reported. During their meeting in Baku, he also expressed the Soviet Union's interest in expanding bilateral relations.

Powercuts — Tehran radio broadcast an Energy Ministry announcement warning the public of impending powercuts of up to 5 hours per day due to an electricity shortage.

Kuwait

A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by KUNA denied that Kuwait has allowed its airspace to be used for "non-Kuwaiti military purposes," and he expressed "regret and astonishment" at Iran's accusations in this regard. Kuwait will not allow any foreign party to use its air, land, or territorial waters, he said, and it believes that Iran's "information campaign" will offend good-neighborly relations between the two countries.

Jordan

King Husayn received the Soviet general who is heading a military delegation, Amman radio reported.

Sudan

Ethiopian warplanes continued their strikes on villages in the eastern region by bombing Mandal 29 November, according to an *Al-Siyasah* report cited by SUNA. A Sudanese deputy charged that Ethiopia was not only targeting Eritrean rebels, but also trying to "provoke" the Sudanese Government. He called on Premier Al-Sadiq al-Madhi to "respond firmly."

Western Sahara

Polisario announced 3 December that its forces attacked a Romanian trawler off the Western Saharan coast in November, maintaining that Romania has supplied arms to Morocco, AFP reported. "Informed sources" cited by the agency said that a Romanian trawler was sunk 8 November.

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Jordanian Minister Addresses Conference in Tunis
JN022044 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani has said Jordan believes in the Arab citizen's right to security and stability because it is a sacred human right essential for progress and honorable life and for confronting all challenges and dangers. He added this right is a major guideline of Jordanian policy, through which we view Jordan's existence and steadfastness on the longest line of confrontation with Israel. This requires from us and from the internal security forces and the Jordanian Armed Forces constant special alertness to ward off danger and aggression against our Arab nation.

In a speech during the opening session of the fifth Arab interior ministers' conference, which began work in Tunis today, Al-Dajani stressed concern for the Palestinian question as the issue of all Arabs, saying:

To us, this is our main concern because it is a question of national and pan-Arab security, of usurped Arab rights, of Israeli challenges to the Arab nation, and of the colonialist onslaught and the struggle between our rights and the falsehood of our enemies. This issue also represents our concern regarding our livelihood and security and the confrontation of tragedies and numerous other responsibilities in the face of the 'no war no peace' situation to assert the Arab Palestinian identity on the Arab territories in occupied Palestine. It is a trust that must be carried out without expecting gratitude, privilege, or gain.

The interior minister discussed the Iraq-Iran war. He affirmed that the Iranian aggression is aimed against Arab national security and threatens Arab existence from the ocean to the Gulf. He said the effects of the war will not be limited to the warring countries, but will also affect the Arab nation. It will also enable the ambitious to carry out their plans against our nation and its Arabism. In his speech, the minister conveyed the greetings of King Husayn to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and the Tunisian Government and people.

Algeria's Yala Comments
LD021144 Algiers APS in English 1109 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Tunis, 02 Dec 86 (APS) — "It is necessary to avoid the amalgam between the blind terrorism which we condemn and the liberation struggles which are legitimate and which have the moral and material support of all peoples loving peace and justice" Interior Minister Hadj Yala declared Monday here at the opening of the conference of Arab interior ministers.

"Algeria, he continued, has made clear choices in this field and will never bargain over the aid needed by independence fighters either in our continent or all over the world. It is a task of solidarity which Algeria has never neglected as it has dearly acquired its freedom".

"When we speak on just causes and peoples struggling for their dignity, our thoughts turn to our Palestinian brothers who are waging a struggle with an exemplary courage and in extremly complex conditions against a conjugation of imperialism and Zionism with the complicity of their allies and agents".

Ministers Discuss 'Arms Deal'
LD021424 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Tunis, Dec 2 (MAP).- The fifth session of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers opened its works here Monday morning with the participation of all member countries out of which 17 are represented at ministerial level.

The three day meeting is to examine a number of issues pertaining to the project of an Arab strategy for struggle against drugs, the projects of setting up a center to treat drug addicts in the Arab world, the draft amendment of the council's internal regulations in addition to the council's program of action and budget.

The council is also to examine a report by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on the activities of the Riyadh-based Arab center for security studies and training.

Opening this session, the Arab League secretary general dwelt in his address on the Iraq-Iran war, the U.S. arms shipments to Iran, the situation in Lebanon and the Arab stance towards terrorism.

Klibi who strongly condemned the U.S. arms shipments to Iran said the recent escalation in the Iraq-Iran war will prolong the conflict and impede any peaceful settlement.

Klibi voiced the Arab League's backing to Iraq's repeated calls for an end to the Gulf war through peaceful negotiations and appealed to Iran to accept peace initiatives.

Evoking the Lebanese tragedy, Klibi condemned the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, and its stubborn refusal to abide by UN resolutions ordering the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from this Arab country.

He called on Arab states to join efforts to help Lebanon come out of this ordeal and recover its sovereignty and unity and deplored the fightings in the Palestinian refugee camps.

Regarding the Arab stance towards terrorism, Klibi said Arab countries denounce terrorism as they are its victims. He recalled that they had expressed readiness at the Casablanca Arab summit in 1985 to fight terrorism in cooperation with the European group and the international community.

Klibi stressed the role of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council in bringing about coordination and integration for the protection of the Arab home-front and in dealing with crime.

He urged the council to pay special attention to the living conditions of Palestinians as they have lived under difficult and unhuman conditions since 1948.

During the afternoon session, several heads of delegations took the floor to stress the necessity to come out of this session with

concrete results to be up to the dangers threatening the Arab nation and help face the internal and external challenges facing the Arab world.

The speakers laid a special emphasis on the need to work out an inter-Arab strategy of struggle against drugs.

According to sources close to the meeting, the participants have adopted later in the evening the project of an Arab strategy for struggle against drugs.

Conference Ends; Report Issued

LD030947 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] The conference of Arab interior ministers last night ended its fifth session in Tunis, following meetings that went on for 2 days. Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the honorary president of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, said in a news statement:

We have come out of this conference agreed on the issues discussed. The deliberations during the conference were objective, which indicates the maturity of the interior ministers and the delegations which participated in the conference. He expressed hope of moving on to wider cooperation in future meetings.

Regarding the treatment of drug addicts, the prince said this issue was submitted by the interior ministers to health ministers in order to establish sanatoriums for the treatment of addicts.

Akram Nash'at, secretary general of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, held a news conference in which he said the conference adopted the report of the secretary general regarding the achievements of the Secretariat during the past few years and thanked the secretary general and all those working in the General Secretariat for their valuable efforts in accomplishing such achievements. The council expressed its profound appreciation of Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'aziz, the honorary president of the Council of the Arab Interior Ministers and president of the Administrative Board of the Arab Center for Security Studies and Training, for his constant efforts in directing the activities of the center to develop the Arab security services

The conference also adopted the plan of Arab strategy for combating the illicit use of drugs. The conference expressed its approval of the recommendations issued by the 11th conference of Arab police and security chiefs and the other conferences and meetings held at the Secretariat General of the council this year. The conference also approved the program of action and budget of the Secretariat for next year.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the council issued a statement in which it announced its categorical rejection of the occupation of a single inch of Iraqi territory or any Arab land. It praised Iraq's attitude in accepting peace and its response to all endeavors and initiatives and resolutions, issued by Arab, Islamic and international organizations, that aim at putting an end to the conflict peacefully. The council appealed to Iran to respond to the peaceful initiatives and resolutions, which call for the ending of the conflict in a manner that achieves the legitimate rights and interests of both sides. The council condemned the arms cooperation between Iran and the Zionist entity and the United States — something which has been confirmed by sources within the United States and the Zionist entity.

Reagarding the escalated Zionist acts of aggression against the Palestinian people, the council reaffirmed that it stands side by side with the Palestinian people against the Zionist acts of aggression and asked the Arab governments to render the necessary aid to the PLO so it can check these acts of aggression, and to endeavor to halt the attacks on the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and facilitate the shipment of medical supplies and food to these camps.

The conference also reaffirmed its resolutions issued during its past four session regarding the treatment of Palestinians in the Arab countries. It charged the Secretariat General of the council to follow up its efforts and contacts with the cooperation of the Secretariat General of the Arab League and the PLO in order to implement these resolutions.

With regard to the U.S. aggression on Libya, the council announced its condemnation of this aggression that took place in April 1986 and was targeted against the civilians and aimed at the destruction of living quarters, hospitals and schools.

Regarding the British, Zionist and U.S. provocations against the Syrian Republic, the conference announced its condemnation of these provocations administered by Britain against the Syrian Arab Republic with the aim of weakening its steadfastness.

Regarding the ill-treatment to which Arab citizens are being subjected, at U.S. airports and ports, and the airports and ports of some other western states, the conference called on the states using obstructive measures against Arab citizens at their airports to review such measures and to abolish them.

PLO Leaders Try to Resolve Camps War, Unity Issue

'Arafat Makes Statement

JN021817 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has appealed to the Arab nation to make a move to save half a million Palestinians being liquidated in Lebanon. In a news statement published in Jeddah today, brother Abu 'Ammar said we should not keep silent over the continuous attacks on the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, which are simultaneously launched by the Amal gangs and the Zionist forces. He pointed out the Al-Rashidiyah camp has been subjected to Israeli air and naval bombardment several times as it was being subjected to siege and aggression by the Amal gangs.

Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed that the Palestinians are not at all thinking of having a military presence in Lebanon. However, the PLO will not permit aggression against any Palestinian

anywhere. He said the scheme the Amal Movement has been seeking to implement for 2 years is the deportation abroad of the Palestinians from the Lebanese camps. He explained that the organization does not wish to expand the conflict with Amal. However, he said, we are able to strike at all plots to liquidate the Palestinian people.

He noted that there are ongoing contacts with a number of Arab officials to hold an Arab summit on the fringes of the Islamic summit conference scheduled to be held in Kuwait in January to discuss the continuous aggression against the Arab nation prompted by the unjustifiable Arab disunity and differences.

Calls for Nonaligned Meeting

JN021925 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] hau called for an emergency meeting of the 9-member committee of the Nonaligned Movement to study the aggression against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. The *Palestinian News Agency* said Brother Abu 'Ammar sent a message to Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, in his capacity as president of the Nonaligned Movement, and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi explaining the dangerous dimensions of the Palestinian camps war in Lebanon.

Receives Support From Pirzada

JN021913 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Dec 86

["Text" of message from ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat — date not given]

[Text] I am still following, with extreme concern and sorrow, reports of the continuous attacks against our Palestinian brothers in their camps in the Lebanese arena with the direct participation of Zionist enemy warplanes.

While strongly condemning, on behalf of the ICO, the barbaric attacks carried out by the Zionist enemy and the Amal gangs against our Palestinian brothers in the camps, I send greetings of pride to the steadfast Palestinian heroes, who willingly sacrifice their souls and blood for the sake of defending their existence and right to life.

I have previously addressed several appeals to put an immediate and final end to the massacres committed against the Palestinians in Lebanon. As a result of the current situation in the camps, I addressed an urgent message to the UN secretary general asking him to use his authority to secure full protection for the Palestinian brothers in their camps in Lebanon.

I reaffirm once again to Your Excellency our principled commitment toward defending the Palestine question, as well as our unlimited support for the Palestinian people in their just and legitimate struggle under your wise leadership to regain their internationally recognized national rights and to establish an independent sovereign Palestinian state on their national soil.

Khalil al-Wazir Interviewed

LD021307 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Dec 86

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tunis, 2 Dec (KUNA) — Khalil al-Wazir, the deputy commander-in-chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, — Abu Jihad — said no meetings are expected between PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn.

In an interview with KUNA, Abu Jihad added while answering a question on what has been achieved by the recent Egyptian mediation between the organization and Jordan: "On this level I do not expect any new developments. The Jordanian attitude toward the PLO remains the same."

Abu Jihad pointed out that the PLO has a special file that it will present during the forthcoming Islamic summit in Kuwait," which includes grievances and issues of the Palestinian cause. It will attach importance to urgent issues, including the latest attacks directed against the Palestinian people inside and outside occupied territories; the aggressive acts of the Israeli extremists directed against the city of Jerusalem, the heart of the Islamic world; the attempted new occupation of this city under the flag of extremism, as we are witnessing the expulsion of Arab-Muslim residents from houses in the old city; the attack against the Al-'Aqsa Mosque; and the practise of confiscations in Jerusalem."

He said the topics to be discussed include the situation faced by the Palestinian camps in the Lebanese arena, which requires a serious stand to put an end to these repeated massacres, so the Palestinians will not be the victims of any battle. The political prospects of the Palestinian cause, as well as what is required by this stage, and the political deadlock it is experiencing, requires a coordination of Arab standpoints to win international support for our causes.

Replying to a question about the efforts made to unify the factions of the PLO, Abu Jihad said Al-Fatah and the leadership of the PLO during the past period has made intensive efforts to meet with resistance factions and, in this regard, good progress was made with the meeting of the comrades of the DFLP and the Communist Party. Agreement was reached in Prague on a method of common action toward making joint efforts to hold the 18th session of the PNC. The standpoint of the Palestinian National Salvation Front continues to reject any joint cooperation on the Palestinian arena at the time, when the leadership of the organization has sent out its continuous appeal calling on all to participate. And we raise the slogan of turning a new leaf and working anew together for the strengthening of the unity of the Palestinian resistance factions at this stage, to face the dangers and the difficult conditions to which our people are exposed, either in Palestine or in Lebanon.

He added: The last meeting we had with George Habash was in Prague and in Moscow, where discussion centered on how to

draw up the points of our meeting with them after 3 years of estrangement that took place following the Tripoli incidents. The PFLP has its own political view as we have our own political view. We tried to arrive at common ground. We do not believe our views on political issues are the same, as there are differences clearly evident in the political stances. We have submitted to them a plan connected with the Amman agreement, and so far they have not approved it. But we have arrived at a number of points that we regard as a basis for joint cooperation; these involve mainly cooperation in the struggle inside the occupied territories. We believe the present circumstances in which our people, especially in Lebanon, are being subjected to attacks, dictate that we hold more meetings and carry out joint actions. As for the dialogue within the PNC, this issue is still under discussion.

Commenting on the recent events in the Palestinian camps, Abu Jihad said: We would like to reaffirm very stongly and very clearly without ambiguity that in Lebanon we ourselves are the target of aggression and Nabih Birri and Amal groups are continuing their attacks on our camps; the Rashidiyah camp has been under attack for the past 64 days. Attacks have not ceased and the blockade continues. Children's milk and medicines are being prevented from arriving at the camp. In addition there are the diseases that have broken out within the camp, such as cholera. No international conscience has been able to halt these aggressors from carrying out their acts. The crime is still going on right now. All international establishments are being prevented from entering the camp. Abu Jihad indicated that this attack has blown up the situation in the other areas, as we witnessed the new aggression being waged against Burj al-Barajnah and Shatilah camps, which have been exposed for more than 17 days to intensive and continuous attacks by the Amal Movement. It is known Amal does not act on its own opinion and its decisions are not made by itself. Our brothers in Damascus can help put an end to this aggression in a practical way.

Answering a question on what is being rumored about the deterioration of relations between the PLO and Tunisia, Abu Jihad said: "There is no rupture between us and our brothers in Tunisia. There were some passing problems that we have solved together with awareness and understanding within the ambit of joint brotherly relations. We have now undertaken a series of practical measures, as we have transferred all that is related to the military action, the military leadership and the fighters, and Tunisia has remained the headquarters of the political leadership and the political action of the organization. There was an agreement on a series of premises satisfactory to both parties, and which works towards the continuation of the strong relations, which continuity we are still seeking to safeguard within the spirit of brotherhood.

Hawatimah Makes Statement

JN021849 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 1 Dec 86 p 26

[Salam Musafir dispatch from Moscow]

[Text] DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has decribed the ongoing battles in southern Lebanon between the Amal Movement and Palestinian fighters as the third dirty war launched by Amal against the camps. The first war was during Ramadan in June 1985, the second was during Ramadan in June 1986, and this is the third one. In an exclusive statement to *Al-Anba'* in Moscow, Hawatimah said: It has become clear to all Arabs that the claim that the war of annihilation against the Palestinians is aimed at 'Arafat's supporters, as Amal says, is false. Amal's objective is to disarm the Palestinian camps and push the Palestinians north, or even out of Lebanese territory, accoridng to the Zionist enemy plan on which it has been insisting since the May agreement; that is, military and security arrangements from Beirut to the international border to guarantee complete security for the Israeli enemy.

Hawatimah continued by saying: The enemy insists that Amal alone shoulder the responsibility for security according to Amal's slogan: No arms in the south except Amal arms. Hawatimah noted the 25 February meeting of the Israeli Government, in which it announced it would not allow the defeat of the Amal Movement at the hands of the Palestinian defenders of the camps. The Israeli Government also entrusted its war minister with providing Amal with all types of support and military backing to enable it carry out its mission.

Answering a question by *Al-Anba'* on the results of the ongoing Palestinian dialogue, Hawatimah, who is visiting Moscow within the framework of the current efforts to this effect, said: The Prague agreement constitutes the clear political and organizational basis on the road to unifying the PNC. He added: Today, we stand on the threshold of a new stage of dialogue to develop this agreement. Hawatimah announced that Algeria had expressed readiness to host an expanded Palestinian meeting of the three Palestinian factions that reached agreement in Prague. These factions are the Fatah movement, the DFLP, and the Palestinian Communist Party, in addition to mass Palestinian organizations and a number of national figures from Palestinian groupings in the camps of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and from the Arab Gulf states. Hawatimah expressed hope that the upcoming meeting, scheduled to take place at the end of November and postponed because of the incidents in southern Lebanon, would constitute a big step toward holding the comprehensive national Palestinian dialogue in preparation for the PNC session.

Hawatimah told *Al-Anba'* that during the dialogue with the PFLP in Prague and Moscow, Fatah expressed readiness to officially announce the abrogation of the Amman accord in light of the comprehensive national dialogue and before convening the PNC.

Al-Anba' learned from Palestinian sources in Moscow that Fatah stipulated that the PLO leadership announce the cancelation of the Amman accord 1 week before convening a new PNC session.

The PFLP has set two conditions for a Palestinian dialogue: the first is political, that is, the immediate and official announcement of the annulment of the Amman accord, and the second is organizational, calling for a review of the composition of the Palestinian factions and institutions.

Appeals to Arab Presidents

JN021432 Doha QNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, 2 Dec (QNA) — DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah sent cables today to a number of Arab heads of state on the ongoing battles between Amal and the Palestinian forces in Lebanon.

In his cables to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, and YSP Secretary General Ali Salim al-Bid, Hawatimah appealed for intervention to put an end to these battles.

Khalaf Rejects Camps Agreement

JN022049 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1834 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has voiced his indignation and pain over the massacres and attemps to liquidate our people by the Amal gangs, the Syrian regime, and Israel, as the world marks the international day of solidarity with us. This came during a rally held by the Tunisian branch of the Palestinian Women's Federation on this occasion. [passage omitted]

Abu Iyad said: We would like to assert that the Amal gangs' plan in Lebanon goes beyond the Syrian plan. It is a plan directly connected with Israel because Amal is trying to prove to the Zionist enemy it is able to remove all the guns from southern Lebanon, in exchange for handing the border strip to it. Amal was angry at our people recently because it failed in its plan. Now it is acting blindly, using the most grotesque means to realize its end. It has started to impose sieges around the camps and is cooperating with [former Lebanese Forces leader] Elie Hubayqah in this.

Abu Iyad said: Here I would like to say we encountered supportive slogans after we left Beirut in 1982. And after the Sabra and Shatila massacres, we drew sympathy. Now Elie Hubayqah, who committed the Sabra and Shatila massacres, is leading the attack on the Sabra and Shatila camps. The atrocities being committed against our people in the camps are even worse than the atrocities being committed against our people in the occupied territory.

Abu Iyad said: From 1983 to 1986, we tried by all means to stave off the Syrian killing of our people. However, the Damascus gang refused to stop this, because the bill of Palestinian blood this gang is presenting to the United States is its only bargaining chip. Now the killing is continuing, but our people in the camps are heroically foiling Damascus' plans. After we occupied Maghdushah hill to silence the guns killing our people, those in Damascus tried to reach agreement to implement the plot to regain the hill and resume shelling the camps.

Abu Iyad expressed the PLO's rejection of this agreement and said: We are prepared to withdraw from Maghdushah provided it is handed over to the Lebanese nationalist forces and on condition that our camps are not shelled again. We say this because we do not want any piece of Lebanese territory.

In this context, Abu Iyad said: Had we wanted Lebanese territory, we would have accepted the old Syrian proposals to give us parts of Lebanese territory. We rejected this and told Syria we wanted only Palestine. We are ready to withdraw from Maghdushah and to hand it over to the forces of brother Mustafa Ma'ruf Sa'd [secretary general of the Nasirite Grouping]. However, they must lift the siege of Al-Rashidiyah camp.

Brother Abu Iyad praised the noble stands of the Lebanese nationalists, expressing the PLO's understanding of the statements being made against our people by certain sides, affirming that these statements are made while the specter of Syria's crimes is still fresh in their minds. We do not want to be responsible for their being exposed to new Syrian crimes, he said. Brother Abu Iyad expressed the Palestinian revolution's determination to continue its just struggle to regain our people's rights. He affirmed that the Palestinian rifle will not be dropped from Palestinian hands and our enemies' plots will remain mere illusions. [passage omitted]

Factions To Meet This Month

JN021720 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 1 Dec 86 p 26

[Text] Moscow — *Al-Anba'* — Commenting on meetings between a Fatah and a PFLP delegation in Moscow, Sa'id Abu 'Amarah, PLO charge d'affaires in Moscow, said the meetings opened a new, quiet, and fruitful dialogue between Fatah and the PFLP and constitute a prelude to further expanded and comprehensive meetings. In a statement to *Al-Anba'*, he said: An expanded meeting of Palestinian organizations such as Fatah, the DFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, the Palestinian Liberation Front — The Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] group — and the Arab Liberation Front, in addition to popular organizations and independent nationalist figures, will take place in Algiers in the first half of December. Abu 'Amarah added that Palestinian-Soviet relations are improving, especially after the start of dialogue among the resistance groups, and announced that there is no obstacle to 'Arafat's visiting the Soviet Union.

PLO Radio Rebukes Arab 'Silence', 'Connivance'

JN021045 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The evil plot is now exposed. The scandal of the tripartite Israeli-Syrian-Amal coordination is now clear. No doubt the alliance and coordination are aimed at wiping out the Palestinians and liquidating their struggle. They are aimed at serving the Zionist enemy and its security, which is based on expansion and aggression. What can we say now? What words can we use to formulate our bitter question? How can we prevent our memory from recording the ugly stabs in our body as a result of the Arab silence? Our body is full of treacherous wounds intended to kill our spirit of struggle, so the Zionist enemy could extend its security and promote its aggressive aims.

How can we avoid recording the stabs of our brothers? Where is the Arab position? Why this fearful silence? What is the deal signed at the expense of the Palestinian people, their national cause, their political entity and legitimate rights? What is this deal in which the Arab silence is being so effective? Has Arab connivance reached such an extent? Have they reached such a low state of submission to enemy terms and decisions? We should not ask these questions because this Arab position will remain as long as these regimes continue to exist. Why do we ask when the answer is very clear? Yet, our spirit does not accept this answer.

With the Palestinian spirit, we fight and remain steadfast, performing miracles. With our spirit and Palestinian determination we triumph. Our brothers' stands will only hurt our bodies. They will not harm our ideas and decisions. We will defend our revolutionary project with all the power of the Palestinian ideology to realize our future. We will realize our future with our free will and independent decisionmaking. We will realize it despite these regimes' defeatism, connivance, and retreat. We will realize it despite the enemy plots and no matter how many militias and regimes this enemy might employ to fight us. We will realize it. We will establish an independent, free Palestinian state under the PLO banner and leadership.

Let the plot and the plotters go to hell.

'Arafat Congratulates Sierra Leonean President

JN021026 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has sent a cable of congratulations to Sierra Leonean President Joseph Momoh on the anniversary of his election as president of the friendly Republic of Sierra Leone. On this occasion, brother Abu 'Ammar expressed our people's thanks and appreciation for the consistent stands of the Sierra Leonean people and Government, which suport our people's just struggle, under the leadership of their sole legitimate represnetative, the PLO, to regain their national legitimate rights, including their right to repatriation, self- determination, and the establishment of an independent state on their homeland's soil.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: The establishment of diplomatic representation between the PLO and your friendly government will further enhance Arab-African relations in general, and Palestinian-Sierra Leonean relations in particular. He stressed the PLO'S eagerness to promote and bolster these relations in the interest of the two peoples and world peace.

Receives CSSR Cable

JN021000 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a cable of support and solidarity from the CSSR Government on the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. In the cable, the CSSR Government expressed full support for the just struggle the Palestinian people are waging, under the leadership of the PLO to obtain their national, inalienable rights, as well as their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their homeland's soil. The CSSR Government also condemned the aggressive Zionist policy, backed by U.S. imperialism, adopted by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian people.

Iraq Oil Minister Interviewed on OPEC Quotas

LD031027 Kuwait KUNA in English 0921 GMT 3 Dec 86

[by Shamel Khayri]

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 3 (KUNA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim al-'Uraybi reiterated Wednesday his country's demand for an equal quota of oil production with that of Iran in any agreement that might be hammered out by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency, the minister who is currently in Kuwait to participate in the ministerial conference of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), demanded that the OPEC next conference in Geneva, to be held later this month, adopt a resolution cutting back output ceiling so as to bring the prices up to 18 dollar a barrel.

Without embarking on such a step, the Iraqi minister emphasized, realizing that objective (of 18 dollar a barrel) "would be something far from reality."

He expected that the OPEC ministers would extend the temporary agreement on production ceiling and quotas in case they failed to conclude "a scientific and objective formula on quotas and output ceiling."

The OPEC ministers, during their last conference, decided to extend the temporary agreement on production and quotas reached last August, for another two months, expiring by the end of December.

At present, the OPEC production ceiling is 17 million barrel a day. Iran's quota, according to this agreement, is 2.3 million barrel a day, and Iraq was given the right to produce the quantities it wants, though it is producing about 1.9 million barrel a day at present.

Al-'Uraybi stressed that if the oil prices are to be increased to the level of 18 dollar a barrel by the onset of next year, oil output ceiling should be slightly cut down to absorb the current surplus at the international markets.

He pointed out however, that if the production ceiling was decided to be cut down by 5 or 10 percent, the quota of all the OPEC members should also be decreased by the same level.

Al-'Uraybi called for basic changes on the pricing structure if the OPEC members want a price of 18 dollar a barrel to be an official fixed price.

KUWAIT

Ministry Rejects Iranian Charges on Airspace Use

LD021404 Kuwait KUNA in English 1327 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 2 (KUNA) — Kuwait Tuesday flatly rejected Iranian accusations that it was using its air space and Kuwaiti positions for non-Kuwaiti military purposes, voicing regrets and astonishment at Tehran's circulation of such accusations.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, was commenting on the Iranian news agency "IRNA" reports that Kuwait was offering its air space and Kuwaiti positions for non-Kuwaiti military purposes.

While expressing regret and astonishment at what the media in Iran have been repeating regarding these accusations, Kuwait firmly rejects these accusations and affirms, in the meantime, that it will not allow any quarters to use its air, land or territorial waters pointing out that all who frequent these sites are Kuwaitis.

Kuwait is convinced that the continuation of such an information campaign will offend good neighbourly relations between the two countries and will obstruct Kuwait's intent and professed interest in ending the destructive war between the two Muslim states and reaching a just settlement preserving the legitimate rights of the two parties, the spokesman told KUNA.

At the time Kuwait is looking forward to the day it hosts the Fifth Islamic Summit, it hopes to see the Islamic Republic of Iran respond to the sincere peaceful bids to end the Muslim bloodshed so that peace and stability in this area of the Islamic world prevails, the spokesman added.

Papers Doubt U.S. 'Credibility' on Arab Causes

LD030905 Kuwait KUNA in English 0818 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 3 (KUNA) — Two Kuwaiti dailies Wednesday doubted credibility of Washington toward Arab causes particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq-Iran war.

Al-Ray' al-Amm said that the U.S. has lost credibility as a neutral mediator in both disputes and pointed out "there is no need to send more envoys to the Middle East after it was proven that their mission was to cover up for secret bargaining and arms shipments."

American President Ronald Reagan has given the green light to his National Security Council to support Iranian warmachine, the daily asserted.

It charged that Washington had facilitated the supply of missiles to Tehran to strike at Baghdad and enabled it to attack Arab and Gulf tankers in the territorial and international waters of the Gulf.

The paper regretted the fact that the Arabs are acting without planning while the big cpuntries direct their stances toward global issues on basis of their own interests.

Another local paper said that credibility of Arab leaderships, should be the issue, and not that of the United States.

The Arab masses should rather concentrate on "credibility of their leaders in declaring their stances toward the Iranian-Israeli-American relations" daily *Al-Anba'* said.

It warned that the Arabs are awaiting such frank reactions and noted that "suddenly all have turned dumb or merely expressing dismay."

The paper charged that the U.S. and Israel were arming Iran not to boost (?U.S.) influence in Tehran "but rather to break the Arab power crystalized by Iraq."

They further wish "to drain Arab resources, kill biggest possible number of Arab fighters, maintain fate of Arab oil linked to closure of a strait and keep the Arab Gulf countries afraid from Iranian aggression to purchase more American arms and increase deposits in American banks," the daily concluded.

Bulgaria's Tanchev Arrives for Official Visit

LD022211 Kuwait KUNA in English 1922 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 2 (KUNA) — Bulgarian First Vice President Petur Tanchev arrived in Kuwait tonight for an official four-day visit during which he will have cooperation talks with the country's top leaders.

Tanchev is scheduled to meet his highess the amir, His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, and Deputy premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Tanchev told KUNA in an arrival statement that during his visit here he will be seeking to strengthen cooperation ties between his country and Kuwait in economic, trade and cultural areas.

He noted that links between the two states have been growing steadily especially after the exchange of visits by his highness the amir and Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov.

The Bulgarian official who arrived here from Damascus, said Kuwait has remarkably developed since he last visited here 18 years ago.

He added that Bulgarian companies involved in development projects in Kuwait were cementing cooperation between the two countries.

Tanchev was greeted at the airport by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi and the Bulgarian ambassador here as well as Foreign Ministry officials.

The Bulgarian vice president has been occupying the post since 1974 and is also secretary of the Bulgarian Farmers Union.

Gives Zhivkov Message to Amir

LD031021 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0934 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Dec (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received here today a written message from Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov, the contents of which were not disclosed.

The visiting first deputy chairman of the State Council, Petur Tanchev, delivered the message to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad in the presence of the Bulgarian ambassador here and of Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs.

The Bulgarian guest met today with Shaykh al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

PDRY

Abu Bakr Al-'Attas Receives Arab Officials

EA030938 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the People's Supreme Council Presidium, received separately in his office today, brothers 'Abd al-'A'ti al-'Ubaydi, chairman of the Arab Committee for Solidarity and Peace in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; Sadiq (Bouqadayah), member of the permanent secretariat of the Council of Friendship and Cooperation with Peoples in the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; and Dr Usam Rashid, member of Peace and Solidarity Council Presidium in the Republic of Iraq.

YSP Official Meets Soviet Solidarity Official

EA022146 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, met in his office this morning, Comrade (Belingrov), the secretary general of the Soviet Solidarity Committee. During the meeting, the two sides stressed that the meeting of Arab solidarity committees had acquired a special importance in view of the complex circumstances in which the Arab countries found themselves, and in view of the escalation of the aggressive, imperialist and expansionist onslaught hostile to the Arab liberation movement and to the interests of our Arab peoples and all the peace-loving peoples.

On his part, Comrade (Belingrov) stressed the need to continue developing and deepening the honest ties and relations of friendship and cooperation that link the two friendly countries and peoples, founded on the basis of revolutionary principles for joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction and the establishment of peace in the world.

QATAR

Amir Leaves Doha for Visit to Europe 3 Dec

JN030751 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0707 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Doha, 3 Dec (WAKH) — Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani left Doha this morning for Europe. He was seen off by Qatari Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, the Qatari shaykhs, ministers, the police chief, and the Consultative Council speaker.

Eritrean Leader Arrives in Doha on Visit

JN251839 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Nov 86

[Text] Doha, 25 Nov (WAKH) — Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Unified Organization, arrived in Doha today on a visit to Qatar that will last several days, as part of a trip that will take him to a number of GCC states.

Sabbe paid tribute to Qatar's support for the Eritrean people's struggle to achieve their right to self-determination and liberation of their lands. He indicated that his visit is aimed at briefing officials on the developments of the Eritrean question and the situation in the Horn of Africa.

On relations between the ELF and Sudan, Sabbe told QNA that Eritrean-Sudanese relations are good. He indicated that Sudanese officials emphasized to him, during his recent meeting with them, that the car bomb explosion hatched by Ethiopia, in Kassala, had failed to sow division between the Sudanese and Eritreans or to disrupt security in Sudan.

He added that the front had decided to move all its offices and warehouses from Kassala and other border cities to secure areas inside liberated Eritrean territory to prevent Ethiopia from attempting once again to create incidents aimed at dividing the Sudanese and Eritreans, and to stop the Ethiopian infiltration into the front's ranks.

The Eritrean official stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination to confront the international strategies hostile to the Arab and Islamic civilization in the Horn of Africa.

Osman Saleh Sabbe expressed the front's readiness to hold direct negotiations with Ethiopia, without any preconditions and in the presence of a third party, to reach a just and peaceful solution that grants the Eritreans their right to self-determination. He added that once this solution is reached, concessions can be granted to Ethiopia concerning the Red Sea ports geographically located in Eritrea and which Ethiopia uses as an excuse to continue its occupation of Eritrea.

Sabbe indicated that the Eritrean revolution has managed to liberate more than 75 percent of the Eritrean territories and that what remains to be done now is for Arab, Muslim, and friendly states to launch an initiative to present the Eritrean question to the United Nations.

The Eritrean official expressed the hope that the ICO summit, scheduled to be held in Kuwait in January, will follow up on the third ICO summit resolution on supporting the Eritrean question; will raise the issue at the United Nations; and will grant the ELF observer status at the ICO.

Sabbe added that the current circumstances favor the Eritrean question. This has been made possible by the deterioration of the situation in Ethiopia; the growing importance of the role played by the opposition; the political asylum sought by more than 80Ethiopian political opposition figures in the United States and Europe; and the big change in the stands of many Western states and humanitarian organizations on Ethiopia, when they stopped relief aid to Ethiopia after it was proved that it was using this aid toward its war effort.

SAUDI ARABIA

Commentary Views Country's Defense Role, Progress

LD020040 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Text] Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy minister of defense and aviation and [deputy] inspector general, has stressed that our Armed Forces are performing their duties of defending the homeland and the Arab and Islamic nation within the context of their pan-Arab commitments.

A vital embodiment of the role of our Armed Forces is crystalized in a comprehensive concept, the basis of which is to serve Islamic objectives and to defend what is sacred. This embodiment has led to constructive stands, through which many positive things have emerged toward the fulfillment of all desired objectives. In the framework of developing the abilities of this dear homeland's men and sons so they will be able to defend the homeland, as well as the Arab and Islamic nation, the wise leadership has not spared any effort in developing and building Saudi Arabia's ability to act.

The main principle of developing Saudi Arabia's capabilities is to serve the Islamic nation, to serve all that is held sacred and to establish a just and lasting peace, as stressed by Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, and reaffirmed yesterday by his deputy.

Nations are built on faith, security and stability. Saudi Arabia is based on the Islamic faith and has all the requirements of construction and development. On this basis, it has built the Armed Forces, forces that serve Islam and Muslims, and support the Arab nation in confronting the common enemy.

Within this framework comes the announcement by the commander of King Faysal Air Force College that modern aircraft will arrive at the college, as part of the deal signed recently between Saudi Arabia and Britain. The arrival of these aircraft assumes great significance in view of the regional and international political and strategic dimensions, and reflects Saudi Arabia's success in supplying the Armed Forces with everything new and modern. [words indistinct] to the forces of peace and stability in the region.

The development plans adopted by Saudi Arabia, and seen in the efforts by the Ministry of Defense and Aviation to have the Armed Forces reach the highest standards in training and equipment, represent the success of the firm, balanced and wise Saudi policy, and confirms that the country is moving along the right path,in accordance with decisions adopted of its own free will.

Planning Ministry Issues Report on Development

JN021504 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in English 29 Nov p 3

[By Habib Shami]

[Text] Riyadh — Throughout the duration of the three development plans in the Kingdom, the value of goods and services, as measured by gross domestic product in current prices, rose sharply from SR17.4 billion in the year 1969-70 to SR524.7 billion in 1981-82. On account of the drastic fall in the output of the oil sector, the GDP began to drop in 1982 and reached SR339.2 billion in 1984.85, said a report by the Ministry of Planning. The report says that during the period, gross domestic fixed capital formation rose from SR2.6 billion in 1969-70 to SR122.3 billion in 1981-82 and dropped to SR96.6 billion in 1984-85. The share of investment in GDP rose from 15 percent in 1969-70 to 28.5 percent in 1984-85.

In the agriculture sector, there has been remarkable achievements. Wheat production increased from 26,000 tonnes in the year 1969-70 to over 2 million tonnes in 1984-85. The Kingdom is now self-sufficient in wheat and is exporting to other countries.

Production of dates grew at an average annual rate of 4.9 percent, thus recording an increase from 240.000 tonnes to 475,000 tonnes during the same period. Production of poultry meat rose from 7,000 tonnes in 1968-70 to 177,000 tonnes in 1984-85 meeting 70 percent of the local requirement. The production of eggs, which has not achieved self-sufficiency, rose from 5,000 tonnes to 132,000 tonnes over the 15 year span.

The report gave an account of the remarkable expansion in the large manufacturing industries. The number of operating factories rose from 207 in 1970 to 1,804 in 1985, with a growth record of 17.4 percent.

These factories are estimated to have an accumulated capital investment of SR56 billion and currently employ a total work force of about 118,000 persons. These factories produce varieties of merchandise, such as food and beverages, paper products, chemical products, basic metal and fabricated metal products and electrical equipment. According to the five-year plans, the economic development strategy is to develop basic industries producing petroleum-based products to be established in the two industrial complexes of Jubayl and Yanbu'.

The Royal Commission for Jubayl and Yanbu' is charged with

the task of developing the two cities. It was established in 1975, to plan and implement the needed infrastructure. It carried out the job to the entire satisfaction of the task point, and both Jubayl and Yanbu' industrial cities have been ready to accommodate basic, secondary and support industries. By the year 2010, the report indicates, Jubayl is planned to accommodate a population of 290,000 people and Yanbu' to accommodate 150,000 people. On the electricity sector the report said it has witnessed a very rapid growth. It said almost every part of the Kingdom now has electricity, serving about 90 percent of the population. The total installed capacity grew at an average rate of 30.8 percent yearly from 418 megawatts (MW) in 1970 to over 17,000 MW in 1985. Electricity generation rose from 1.8 billion kilowatt-hours in 1970 to 44.5 billion kilowatt-hours in 1985. The number of subscribers went up from 216,000 in 1970 to over 1.8 million by the end of 1985.

UAE

Retaliation Promised for Any Further Attacks

JN022117 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today said his country would retaliate if the attack carried out against the Abu al- Bukush oil field by an Iranian plane is repeated. WAM cited Shaykh Zayid as saying during a meeting with a Kuwaiti envoy in Abu Dhabi that the raid, which claimed eight dead, will not affect his country's self-confidence.

YAR

Satellite Cooperation Memo Signed With India

JN021855 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Our country and India signed a memorandum of understanding in New Delhi yesterday on bilateral cooperation in the sphere of satellites and telecommunications. Communications and Transport Minister Ahmad Muhammad al-Ansi signed the memorandum for our country while Indian Communications Minister Arjun Singh signed for his country. The two sides also stressed the importance of promoting bilateral cooperation in the sphere of technical and vocational training.

Egypt Reportedly Refused To Sell Arms to Iran

NC031132 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Dec (MENA) — *Al-Ittihad*, published in Abu Dhabi, quotes Egyptian military sources as saying that Egypt twice refused to sell Egyptian arms to Iran through brokers and certain American companies that handle advertising and marketing of Egyptian weapons.

The paper also cites the same sources as saying that some arms brokers approached the Arab Industrialization Organization, expressing a desire to purchase and market some of the organization's products, such as ammunition and planes. The organization expressed its willingness to sell weapons provided that it knew the identity of the other party to the contract.

The sources also said that the Egyptian weapons sales representative refused to sell any arms when he discovered that they were to be exported to Iran.

The paper says that this took place in May 1985. In April 1986, arms brokers again requested the sale of arms to Iran, but Egypt refused.

Mubarak Answers Questions at News Conference

NC021331 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1302 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA) — In a statement to Egyptian and foreign reporters today, President Husni Mubarak has stated that he does not accept threats from anyone. Mubarak was responding to a question about a report published by the Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv* 2 days ago to the effect that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had sent a message to President Mubarak warning him of the serious effects of his statement regarding settlements on Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Mubarak said: "I am not the man who accepts warnings from Shamir or anyone else. If the newspaper *Ma'ariv* used the term warning, I do not accept any warnings." Mubarak added: In my speech at the Egyptian People's Assembly I referred to Shamir's statement on the policy of Israeli expansion of settlements and said this would not lead to stable peace. If Shamir's response to my statement is a warning, which I doubt, I do not in any way accept warnings from anyone, no matter who.

On the extent of progress in the talks between the IMF and Egypt, Mubarak said: "The IMF members will meet in Washington this week. We cannot speculate about results, and I do not like to talk until I see real results before me."

Asked whether there are obstructions in the way of an agreement with the IMF, Mubarak said: "There are limits we cannot go beyond, because the income of the Egyptian people is limited, and we cannot burden them more than necessary. It is not my responsibility to ask the ordinary Egyptian citizen to bear more than he can." Mubarak added: "I have taken steps toward economic reform in Egypt, and I will not wait for the IMF to impose more burdens than can be borne. I absolutely cannot accept this, whatever the circumstances." Mubarak expressed his belief that the IMF members have shown understanding of this postion, adding: "I hope they will reach a decision in the near future."

Asked about the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, President Mubarak said: "I am very sad about the situation in Lebanon. The Lebanese problem is an offshoot of the Palestinian problem." Mubarak called on all parties involved in the deterioration in Lebanon to understand the situation and stay away from Lebanon, because the dangers will affect not only Lebanon but all its neighbors and participants. Mubarak said: "I pray to God that all parties will understand the situation and fully appreciate its ramifications, and I affirm that we as Arabs can overcome crises."

Responding to a question by an American reporter on progress toward signing a trade protocol with the Soviet Union and its significance for Egyptian-Soviet relations, Mubarak said: "It would have been better had the question dealt with what the United States has done so far regarding the problem of interest rates on arms sales."

Asked if he has received an answer to this, Mubarak said: "I am waiting for an answer from the United States."

Asked if he has received specific information from the United States on the reduction of the 14-percent interest rate, Mubarak said: "I have heard about this, but I will not be sure of it until I receive an official response."

Asked what had been achieved by the recent visit to the United States by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, President Mubarak said: "All I have just said pertains to the high interest rate on debts. I have discussed this subject with the United States several times since 1982. I believe it is now very important to make a decision on this issue."

Mubarak added: I have heard that decisions on this issue will be made soon. I am waiting to see something official.

Asked about the effect on U.S.-Egyptian relations of the shipment of U.S. arms to Iran through Israel, President Mubarak said: I said before that there is a need for swift and effective measures by the United States, because its credibility in the Middle East has collapsed [tada'at]. Therefore, it is important that a decision be made in this regard. I cannot tell you what this measure should be; the United States knows quite well how to maintain its credibility in this region.

Responding to a question on the obstacles to the peace process, President Mubarak said: We are now seeking to arrive at a formula for Palestinian representation at an international peace conference through the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. We have not yet established a specific concept for this representation.

Mubarak noted that there is another point [not further specified] pertaining to the international conference. This conference needs preparation and coordination to ensure that all the parties concerned will be able to sit down at the negotiating table together. These are the main points we are trying to resolve, he added. We are currently working on the issue of Palestinian representation.

I have received some comments on this issue from Israeli Prime Minister Shamir and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. His Majesty King Husayn was also here in Cairo, and we discussed this topic. Mubarak continued: We are waiting for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to come to Cairo at any time to discuss the peace efforts to be made during the next stage. If we fail to maintain the momentum of the peace process, then we will lose everything.

When asked about his forthcoming visit to France and whether it is connected with the current talks between Egypt and the IMF, Mubarak said that this visit had been scheduled 7 or 8 months ago. At that time, the economic situation was not deteriorating from a fall in the oil prices and other factors. Therefore, this visit has nothing to do with events that have since occurred. Naturally, however, it is possible that my talks with French President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Chirac may deal with some of these issues.

Replying to a question about the role of the NDP in the coming period, Mubarak affirmed: I call on all Egyptian parties to help increase production through their programs and their activities with the man in the street. We have an economic problem, and we must all cooperate to push the wheel of production forward and thereby overcome the obstacles we are now encountering.

When asked about the date for Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, President Mubarak said that he will welcome 'Arafat at any time he deems appropriate. He may come to Cairo very soon, the president added.

Replying to another question on the statement made by Israeli Minister of State Ari'el Sharon demanding that Egypt close its PLO offices in return for solving the Tabah problem, President Mubarak affirmed: Let Sharon say what he wants. Egypt, however, will make the decisions that suit it.

Asked what would happen to the Egyptian economy should the talks between Egypt and the IMF fail, President Mubarak said that this is not a question of life and death. There are countries, such as Tanzania, that have not accepted IMF decisions. However, I believe that the IMF understands our economic conditions very well.

Asked about the IMF request that subsidies be lifted, Mubarak responded: How can we lift subsidies? Even the United States itself gives subsidies. This is not something created in Egypt. The United States gives monthly subsidies to its poor. We have citizens with limited income, Mubarak added. The problem in Egypt is that the subsidies go to everyone. We are doing our utmost to see that subsidies are only given to those who are entitled to them.

When asked if there was a chance that an agreement with the IMF would be reached next year, Mubarak replied: We hope so, God willing.

Asked if next year will be a year for peace talks, Mubarak stated: I hope that this next year will be the year of negotiations for peace. The later we are, the more complicated things will become.

Responding to a question about what would happen if the United States does not give a satisfactory response to Egypt's request that the interest rates on its debts be reduced, President Mubarak said: I believe the United States understands the situation. I believe they are convinced that the 14 percent interest rate on military aid is considered to be high, particularly in light of the fact that world interest rates are normally about 7 percent. Currently they are 6 percent. He added: This is why I believe that the U.S. Administration and Congress are convinced that at least 50 percent of the interest on debts to the United States must be written off.

'Abd al-Majid Meets With Visiting U.S. Official

NC021509 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Ambassador Wat Cluverius, adviser to the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs [title as received]. The American official is currently on a visit to Egypt.

The meeting was also attended by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner.

During their meeting, the two men reviewed developments in the Middle East situation, as well as ways to give impetus to efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, also met with Ambassador Wat Cluverius today. Their 90-minute meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid Confers With Soviet Ambassador

JN022002 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Dec 86 p 6

[Muhammad Isma'il dispatch]

[Text] Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has expressed hope that the ongoing Egyptian-Soviet economic talks will have positive results to reinforce sociopolitical relations. This came during a meeting yesterday with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The Soviet ambassador informed Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid of the results of the recent talks between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Parties Cable Al-Asad, Al-Qadhdhafi on Camps War

NC020906 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA) — The leaders of the five Egyptian opposition parties have sent a cable to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi. The cable states that every drop of Palestinian blood shed by Arab hands represents an unforgivable crime by its perpetrators and serves the enemies of the Arab homeland and the forces of Zionist aggression.

Therefore, the cable says, let the bloody attack on the camps stop immediately, adding that the five parties plan to hold an open session to investigate this crime. The cable was signed by the leaders of the Al-Wafd, Labor, NPUG, Liberal, and Al-Ummah Parties. Copies were sent to Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami; Nabih Birri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal Movement; Walid Junblatt, leader of the Druze; and George Hawi, one of the Nationalist Front leaders in Lebanon.

Socialist African Conference Concludes 2 Dec

NC022134 Cairo MENA in English 1945 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, Dec 2 (MENA) — The Socialist Inter-African Conference stressed at its final session here today the importance of convening an international Middle East peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the U.N. Security Council five member-states and the concerned parties including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The conference also affirmed its full support to the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO leadership to restore their legitimate rights and establish an independent national state on their lands.

The conference in its recommendations released today, called upon the U.N. to take necessary measures to safeguard Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

The conference also voiced full support for liberation movements in Africa against racism and racial discrimination, and called for immediate and unconditional release of political detainees in South Africa.

The conference further called for the independence of Namibia and for finding a just solution to the dispute in the African Horn.

The conference sent an urgent appeal to Spain to peacefully solve the problem of the Moroccan cities and start a dialogue with Morocco.

The final session was chaired by former Senegalese President Leopold Senghor, Deputy Premier and Agriculture Minister Dr. Yusuf Wali and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali.

Mubarak Receives Delegation

NC021134 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received at the Al-Qubbah Presidential Palace this afternoon a delegation representing the League of African Socialist Parties, led by former Senegalese President Leopold Senghor. The meeting was also attended by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, minister of agriculture, and NDP secretary general, and by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Wafd Party Leader Comments on Mubarak Speech

PM021005 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Nov 86 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Siraj al-Din Talks to *Al-Wafd* about President Mubarak's Speech"]

[Text] Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj al-Din has affirmed that President Husni Mubarak's speech at the opening of the new parliamentary session was comprehensive, contained some positive points, and tackled all aspects of life in Egypt. He made specific reference to the president's description of the country as being in a serious stage, impossible to handle without hard work and national commitment.

In reply to a question by *Al-Wafd* regarding the party's opinion of the president's latest speech, Siraj al-Din said that the party agrees with the president's portrayal of the country's situation. The Wafd Party, he said, has frequently supported and today reaffirms its support for what the president said in his speech on foreign and Arab policies.

Apart from that, the Wafd Party leader said, some points require a pause, such as the president's call for cooperation among all forces to overcome the severe economic crisis. Siraj al-Din emphasized that the only way out of the economic crisis is economic stability, which requires political stability. Political stability, he added, can be achieved only on the basis of true and complete democracy, which, as is well known, means that the people should rule themselves through representatives elected by them willingly and freely in honest elections, and on the basis of a democratic constitution that makes the nation the source of all power. This, Siraj al-Din added, is not a new view because it is what the Wafd Party believes and has been the party's mission since its foundation; it was also a part of the party's 1978 program and was reaffirmed in 1984. It is a belief the Wafd Party will never abandon.

Siraj al-Din added: I do not think that the Wafd Party's propagation of that belief should be seen as incitement or as an attack on legitimate state insitutions because, in doing so, the party expresses a public demand for which the nation has been pressing for over 100 years. It is a fact that Egypt was the third country to introduce democratic and parliamentary rule.

In reply to an *Al-Wafd* question about his opinion of recent press calls for dialogue between the opposition and the government, Siraj al-Din said: We do not reject such a dialogue, provided it is based on sound democratic foundations. It was regrettable that the former NDP governments did not believe in such a dialogue, had no regard for the opposition, and regarded party practices as personal feuds. Furthermore, the democractic process in the present People's Assembly, where the NDP has a majority, seems to be moving along those lines.

The Wafd Party leader added: I hope the new government will not do the same because the opposition, as President Mubarak rightly said, is an essential party of democracy.

Al-Wafd told Siraj al-Din: Some people are noticeably trying to drive a wedge between the opposition and the presidency. What is your opinion?

His reply was that, very regrettably, this was true and that the latest example was what Interior Minister Zaki Badr said in a speech he made at Alexandria University last month, reported by *Al-Wafd* in previous editions. What the interior minister said verbatim was: "The opposition curses the president, preaches hate against him, and incites people against him."

The Wafd Party leader said that the interior minister's allegations are pure unfounded fabrications.

Another example of such intrigues and attempts to sow division is the charge made by President Mubarak in his speech about the opposition press, accusing it of resorting to sensationalism and lies.

'Ali Lutfi on Resignation, Press Freedom

JN021845 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
1 Dec 86 pp 22, 23

[Interview with Dr 'Ali Lutfi, former prime minister and current chairman of the Consultative Council, by Sawsan Abu Husayn in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts][Abu Husayn] *Al-Anba'* can cite more than one reason for your resignation mentioned by the opposition papers and the Arab and foreign press, among which are the following:

1. A report by the economic group on reducing spending on arms and the presidency.

2. The negotiations with the IMF and the rescheduling of debts.

3. The absence of harmony among your cabinet ministers.

4. Your stand on investment companies.

5. The detrimental influence of businessmen on economic decisions.

6. The increase of indebtedness by approximately 9.2 billion pounds.

[Lutfi] All the reasons you have mentioned are analytical and mere conjecture; they indicate a lack of real knowledge of the facts. What the oppostiion claims cannot be substantiated. The cabinet I chaired belived in the importance of developing our Armed Forces to upgrade their superiority in terms of arms and training. This is because this issue deals with our strategic and national security. As for the expenditures of the presidency, they are not worth mentioning when compared with the state's public expenditures. Everyone knows President Mubarak is opposed to any manifestations of luxury.

As for the question of negotiations with the IMF, there is no negotiation crisis. On the contrary, differences have been narrowed to a large extent and I expect the conclusion of an agreement with the IMF with respect to our economic, social, and political interests. The IMF never asked us to issue any declaration of intent, toward it or the World Bank, in which the government would pledge to implement specific demands. My resignation was not motivated by my refusal to assume responsibility for the consequences that accepting the World Bank's demands would entail. I also never proposed that we go to the Paris Club to reschedule Egypt's debts and their installments, because creditor countries prefer we do not address the Paris Club before reaching an agreement with the IMF.

As for what has been said about the absence of harmony among cabinet ministers, I would like to say that harmony existed among the ministers, though there were some differences in viewpoints that did not disrupt the spirit of teamwork. [passage omitted]

[Abu Husayn] In your new capacity as chairman of the Consultative Council and of the Supreme Press Council, you told the *Mayu* weekly newspaper, the organ of the Egyptian ruling party, that measures will be taken in the future to organize journalism and the press. Does this mean a restriction on freedom of the press and of the parties, particularly since much was recently said about violations by the opposition press? What will you do to check these violations and what is your concept of freedom of the press?

[Lutfi] Concern over the affairs of the press and its practices is an indivisible part of the commitment to the principle of freedom of the press. A free press has the vital role of enlightening the masses about our problems and national objectives. It is one of the most important channels through which the government's plans and policies are communicated to the masses, as well as a channel for communicating to the government the masses' aspirations and hopes. The freer the press, the more important is its role, and this calls for the regulation of its activities. This is what I meant when I said the press msut be organized.

There will be no restriction on the freedom of the press; otherwise, it would lose its important role. As for violations by some opposition papers, I hope they will change their behavior because this will not benefit them. On the contrary, it will harm their reputation and affect their credibility in the eyes of the public. I would also like to say that we are not with those who advocate the confiscation of newspapers. We never think about taking such a course. [passage omitted]

Paper Comments on Economic Problems, IMF

NC030510 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA) — The *Al-Jumhuriyah* newspaper has reviewed President Husni Mubarak's reaffirmation that Egypt has begun steps toward economic reform. He said Egypt will not wait for the IMF to impose additional burdens, which would be more than the people could bear and which would never be accepted regardless of the conditions.

In the editorial in its Wednesday issue, the paper affirms that the continuation of Egypt's stability means that it is necessary to drive economic and social development continuously forward. The role of the IMF in this respect must be positive. It should stand by a country like Egypt to ensure that it will be able to overcome the oppressive economic crisis that now burdens the people.

Al-Jumhuriyah notes: The president was explicit in his assertions that there are limits to which this crisis can be allowed to go. The Egyptian people are willing to shoulder their responsibility in construction, development, and increased production. The imposition of additional hardships on these people, however, might lead to numerous negative results. The very least that could happen would be the demoralization of the work force and the frustration of the workers' activity, potential, and struggle for construction.

Despite all the problems of development and all the hurdles that Egypt must face, the paper stresses, our country remains strong in its historical capability to overcome any crisis and to adopt stands that place the Egyptian people's interests above all other considerations.

Commentary Views Iranian Threats to Gulf States

NC022240 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "Tehran Rulers Disclose Their Aggressive Intentions Against the Arab Nation"]

[Text] Just 1 day after the outright threats made by Iranian Persident 'Ali Khamene'i against the Gulf states, the Tehran *Times* newspaper ran on its front page a direct threat that Iran will pound any Arab capital with surface-to-surface missiles if it is proved that it assisted Iraq in its recent air raid on Larak Island at the mouth of Gulf. This has exposed the true goal of the ruling regime in Tehran to continue the Gulf war. In other words, the issue is no longer just Iran's expansionist ambitions with regard to Arab Iraq. It now covets the entire Arab Gulf region.

This is why it was logical for the ayatollahs, who control the Iranian people's fate, to reject all international mediation efforts and the peace calls made by Iraq to end the bloodshed in the Gulf. The truth of this assumption is indicated by the fact that these ayatollahs, who use religion as a mask, have permitted themselves to break all taboos and to cooperate with the devil at any price to achieve their expansionist ambitions and to satiate their latent grudge against the Arab nation.

Some people might say that these threats are merely part of the psychological warfare being waged against Iraq and the Gulf states in order to intimidate them. To such remarks we simply reply that this issue is much graver than that. These threats must be taken seriously. Have the Arabs forgotten the recent air raid on the Abu Al-Bukhush oil field of the UAE a few days ago? Have they forgotten the heavy material losses and casualties which resulted from this raid? Have they forgotten the earlier threats made to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia?

The current danger posed to Arabs by Iran far outweighs any other threatening the Arab nation. It would not be an exaggeration to say that there is an undeclared alliance between Iran and those who are seeking to expand at the expense of the Arab nation. Arab Egypt has realized this painful fact for a long time. It has warned its Arab brothers against continuing to assume a spectator role vis-a-vis events in this sensitive region. Egypt has repeatedly asserted that any threat to Gulf security would be considered a direct threat to Egypt's security. Arab Egypt underlines its support for fraternal Iraq in the defense of its existence and independence in the face of the Persian danger disguised by a veil of religion. It also calls on the Arab brothers to take quick action to confront the blatant Iranian threats against the Gulf countries. Arabs should not be content with statements of denunciation and condemnation or with reliance on international mediation efforts. They must take a unified and collective Arab stand in which every country shoulders its responsibility to confront a danger that threatens them all. Such a stand would also expose the excesses exercised by the rulers in Damascus and Libya against their Arab nation, excesses represented by their supply of rockets to the Tehran rulers to strike at Iraqi cities.

In light of these facts, we can understand President Husni Mubarak's recent call to the Arab countries to shoulder their responsibility in accordance with the joint Arab defense agreement.

Air Force Commander Reacts to Iranian 'Threats'

JN021455 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA) — Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, commander of the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense, strongly warned the Iranian rulers against embarking on any aggression against any Arab Gulf state. He said: Such aggression will be considered aggression against Iraq and we will respond to it with the strength that the Iranian enemy knows more about than anyone else.

The warning of the commander of the Air Force and Air Defense came in response to threats launched by the Iranian regime leaders against Arab Gulf states on the pretext of supplying Iraqi aircraft with services during the recent bombardment of the Iranian island, Larak.

In a statement to INA today, Lt Gen Hamid Sha'ban affirmed that Iraqi planes are not in need of refueling or of landing strips to carry out their misson, particularly since the attacks carried out by Iraqi aircraft inside Iran show their ability to reach the farthest point inside Iran. He added that the Iranian regime's leaders will see this by themselves in the future.

The Iraqi commander said: If the Iranian leaders have any intelligence they will know that Iraq's aircraft do not need any services and if they are refueled in the air they can reach the farthest point on the earth.

Sha'ban said the threats launched by the Iranian-Zionist regime came after the successful blows dealt by the gigantic Air Force. He said: We are accustommed to these statements and threats by the Iranian regime. The Iranian regime aims at covering up the recent scandal, which has exposed the arms relations between the Iranian and Zionist regimes as well as the coordination with the U.S. Administration.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communique No 2,466

JN021719 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,466 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante. Our valiant forces inflicted more losses on the aggressors during their combat activities for last night and today as follows:

1. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, our artillery and weapons dealt effective blows to the enemy, destroying two enemy machine guns, one vehicle, one water truck, and six infantry positions; damaging three various vehicles; and killing two enemy solidiers.

2. Seven enemy personnel were killed and four rifles were seized in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. In the II Army Corps central sector, two enemy personnel were killed and three infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed.

4. In the VII Army Corps sector, units from our artillery and tanks dealt consecutive blows to enemy gun emplacements and positions, inflicting severe losses, paralyzing vehicles' movement, and silencing a number of enemy sources of fires.

5. The rancorous enemy shelled the city of Al-'Uzayr with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 December 1986

Government Supports Call for Arab League Meeting

JN020833 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League General Secretariat of its support for the PLO's request to hold an emergency meeting on the foreign minister level to discuss the agent Amal gangs' aggressions against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Tunis, Iraq's permanent Arab League representative said Iraq's support for the PLO's request is based on its awareness of the seriousness of the agent Amal gangs' plotting against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, in cooperation with the Syrian regime to implement a Zionist scheme against the entire Palestinian existence.

Saddam Husayn Congratulates UAE President

JN021807 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, on his country's national day. Following is the text of the cable:

His Highness Brother Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE. On the occasion of UAE'S national day, it pleases me to send to Your Highness, on behalf of Iraq and in my own name, our heartfelt greetings wishing you good health and happiness, the fraternal UAE people further progress, and the existing relations of fraternity and cooperation between our states continuous development in the interest of our Arab nation.

[Signed] Your Brother Saddam Husayn

Ramadan Confers With Arab Envoys in Prague

JN291453 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received the Arab ambassadors to the CSSR in Prague last night. He discussed the nature of his visit to the CSSR and his talks with CSSR President Gustav Husak and Premier Lubomir Strougal, stressing that the talks were important and cordial, and reflected the two countries' desire to promote relations in various areas. Ramadan also reviewed the Iraq- Iran war and the Iranian regime's aggression and its shelling of civilian inhabitants — acts that prove that regime's

bankruptcy and its attempts to conceal its failure and scandals as well as its suspected ties with the Zionist entity against Iraq and the Arab nation — stressing Iraq's capability to retaliate. He added that all signs affirm that the Iranian regime can no longer assume the burden of the losses inflicted on its economic installations by the Iraqi Air Force.

Ramadan also said Iraq's steadfastness over the past 6 years against the Iranian regime has affirmed the Arabs' capability to defend their sovereignty and cause, as well as to eliminate all of the treacherous plots of some of the Arab regimes represented by the agent regimes of Hafiz al-Asad and al-Qadhdhafi. He pointed to the expansion of Iraq's international relations in the economic field, as it entered the seventh year of its war, and stressed that these relations reassure other countries about Iraq's economic future and its concern over bringing peace to the region.

The meeting was attended by Industry and Minerals Minister Subhi Yasin, Usamah al-Zahhawi, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary, and the Iraqi ambassador in Prague. Samih 'Abd al-Fattah, doyen of the Arab diplomatic mission in Prague, expressed his wishes of progress and victory for Iraq, referring to the heroic steadfastness of the Iraqi people which is considered a pride for the Arabs.

'Izzat Ibrahim, Delegation Leave for Bangladesh

JN021340 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA) — RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim left for Dacca this morning, leading an official delegation on a visit of several days to Bangladesh. The RCC vice chairman and the accompanying delegation will hold talks there aimed at developing relations of cooperation between Iraq and Bangladesh in various fields.

The delegation accompanying the RCC vice chairman comprises Irrigation Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil, and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Wassam al-Zahawi.

Foreign Ministers Meeting on PLO Camps Endorsed

JN021221 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today informed the Arab League General Secretariat that Jordan agrees to the convening of an extraordinary meeting of the Arab Foreign Ministers Council to discuss the fighting in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon at the urgent request of the PLO.

The Foreign Ministry also informed the Arab League General Secretariat that Jordan is prepared to attend the meeting on the date fixed by the Secretariat.

Egyptian Tourism Minister Arrives 1 Dec

JN011105 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Amman — Dr Fu'ad Sultan, Egyptian minister of tourism and civil aviation, arrived in Amman this morning leading a delegation comprising 21 members dealing with tourist activities in the public and private sectors, on an official 5-day visit to Jordan. During the visit Dr Sultan will hold talks with Muhammad al-Khatib, minister of information, culture, tourism, and antiquities, on ways to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism and drawing up plans for marketing tourism in implementation of the tourist agreement between the two countries.

Dr Sultan stated that his visit to Jordan falls within the framework of constant coordination between the two countries to promote economic, tourist and cultural cooperation, and within the series of continuous visits and meetings to consolidate joint cooperation whose foundations were laid by His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to serve the interests of the two fraternal countries.

Received by Prime Minister

JN021345 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office this morning Dr Fu'ad Sultan, Egyptian minister of tourism and civil aviation, in the presence of Muhammad al-Khatib, minister of information, culture, tourism, and antiquities.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to develop and strengthen fraternal relations, especially in the tourism field, and the establishment of joint tourism projects to benefit the two countries' peoples. The meeting was attended by the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

King Receives Egyptian Minister, Soviet General

JN021704 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received Dr Fu'ad Sultan, Egyptian minister of tourism and civil aviation, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The meeting was attended by the minister of information, cultural, antiquities, and tourism, and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

His Majesty King Husayn also received General Chesnokov, commander in chief of the Soviet Air Defense Forces [title as heard] and head of the Soviet military delegation currently visiting Jordan at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The meeting was attended by Staff General Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

King Husayn Receives Richard Armitage 2 Dec

JN021303 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] Amman, (PETRA) — King Husayn received U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Armitage at the Royal Hashemite Court yesterday.

The chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the commander in chief of the armed forces, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman attended.

Armitage Departs

JN021304 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Armitage and the delegation accompanying him, left Amman tdoay at the end of a 4-day official visit to Jordan during which he met with King Husayn and senior officials.

Armitage was seen off at Amman Military airport by General Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; the chief of staff and his aides; the commander of the Air Force; the U.S. ambassador in Amman; U.S. Embassy staff; and the Jrodanian military attache in Washington.

Planning Minister Assesses West Bank Development

JN020925 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Planning Minister Dr Tahir Kan'an held an open dialogue with Yarmuk University students this evening. During the dialogue, he answered students' questions on the occupied territories development program and its impact on supporting the steadfastness of citizens in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr Kan'an reviewed the economic situation in the occupied territories. He reviewed the areas of development in support of citizens' steadfastness in the occupied territories. Dr Kan'an hailed the citizens' steadfastness in the occupied territories as well as their adherence to their land and Arab identity despite the various pressures exerted by the Israeli authorities against them. He said the basic objective of the development program is to confront the plans aimed at Judaizing the land and evicting the citizens from their homeland. He pointed out that the program also aims to provide new job

opportunities to citizens in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to entrench them on their land, preserve the Arab identity of the occupied territories, and expand production in the agricultural and industrial fields.

JORDAN TIMES: Gaza Produce Permitted Transit
JN301613 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Nov p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA) — All agricultural produce from the occupied Gaza Strip bound for export is allowed to pass via Jordan, Minister of Agriculture Marwan al-Humud announced on Saturday. The entry dates for citrus fruits and saplings were also set by the minister.

Mr Al-Humud's decision is in line with Jordan's stand, endorsed by the Council of Arab Economic Unity in September, to open up Arab markets for produce from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On Saturday, Mr Al-Humud also met with the president and members of the Jordanian veterinary association and discussed ways to create job opportunities for vet specialists.

The meeting also discussed veterinary services in the Kingdom and the situation of vets in the occupied West Bank. Nine new vets were also sworn in as member of the association.

Islamic Resistance Attacks Israeli Positions

NC021231 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The Islamic Resistance issued the following statement today:

On Tuesday morning, 2 December 1986, a group of Islamic Resistance strugglers carried out a new kind of daring operation against two positions held by Israeli and Lahd Army personnel in Lucy and Al-Surayri in Western al-Biqa'. The Islamic Resistance strugglers razed the positions to the ground with machine gun and rocket fire, leaving 15 dead and well over 20 others wounded among the Israeli enemy and agent Lahd Army personnel. The strugglers cleared the two positions, chanting: God is great, Islam will triumph, death to Israel and its agents. The group returned safely to base. The Islamic strugglers seized an armored personnel carrier, three 12.7-mm machine guns, and a quantity of communications equipment and hardware.

This operation was undertaken in response to statements made by Zionist enemy leaders, particularly Peres, who gloats over the infighting between Muslims in and around the camps. We promise our noble martyrs that the Islamic resistance will continue to fight the enemy until Israel is completely wiped out. This operation was a practical reply to the seditious war in the camps.

Israelis Search Al-Biqa'

NC031203 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1125 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] According to a security report received from Western al-Biqa' at midday, Zionist helicopters were involved in an extensive search operation between 1000 and 1215 today. The Amal Movement Military Bureau's Fifth Section also announced that the Israelis and their agents conducted a thorough search of Western Al-Biqa' following yesterday's heroic action by the fighters of the Islamic resistance. In addition, Zionist helicopters have been raking Mashgharah since 1000, while enemy tanks deployed on the surrounding hills have shelled a number of villages in the area.

The occupation forces have been attempting to advance toward Maydun and 'Ayn al-Sim since 1100 today, under cover of a heavy artillery barrage. They were also backed by helicopters, which raked the region for more than 2 hours, bringing the two towns under fire.

The same information indicates that resistance fighters and local residents have engaged the Zionist occupation forces.

Israeli Tanks Advance in South

JN031252 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1225 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Before ending this newscast, we have received an urgent report citing Lebanese military sources in southern Lebanon saying a large Israeli military force consisting of not less than 10 heavy tanks has advanced today from the security strip in the border area toward the areas of 'Ayn al-Tinah and Al-Dallafah bridge south of the town of Mashgharah. In addition, Israel earlier shelled with heavy artillery several Lebanese villages near the security strip area, killing 1 civilian and wounding 10 others.

This Israeli military action comes after the successful operation the Islamic Resistance carried out in southern Lebanon yesterday against the positions of the South Lebanese Army militias, which are Israel's allies in the security strip area.

SSNP, Hizballah Clash at Mashgharah Parade

NC021655 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] There was a parade in the Suhmur, Yuhmur, and Mashgharah townships today during which an armored personnel carrier seized from the ememy was displayed. At this parade, our correspondent reports, a clash broke out between Hizballah men and members of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] in Mashgharah.

According to Hizballah sources, someone from the SSNP fired a shell at the personnel carrier when it arrived in Mashgharah. The vehicle was damaged, while two Hizballah men were killed and six others wounded.

According to SSNP sources, however, Hizballah gunmen opened fire at the party's headquarters during the parade and upon the personnel carrier's arrival in Mashgharah. Party members responded to the source of this fire. Clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets then ensued.

Security sources report that a unit of the Syrian special forces, together with the Lebanese Army, Brigadier General Ibrahim Salim, and key partisan figures, intervened to contain the incident. Calm has been restored to Mashgharah.

Junblatt, Birri Comment on Damascus Meetings

NC030828 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Violent clashes took place last night on the Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila camp lines. There was also fighting around Maghdushah, when Palestinians made several infiltration attempts and were repulsed by Amal Movement fighters. In this tense atmosphere, efforts are continuing in Damascus to find a solution. Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam is scheduled to meet with Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt. Lebanese party leaders, who have been in Damascus since the beginning of the week, may attend these meetings.

Before leaving for Damascus, Minister Junblatt told visitors of his fear of serious consequences if an impasse is reached and no solutions are found to end the fighting in Beirut and the south. He said: The problem must be ended, and the Damascus agreement must constitute the general framework for any accord. There must be guarantees. The Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] must also take a clear stand. He

added: Despite the gravity of the situation and its effects, the PNSF must declare its position.

Minister Junblatt continued by saying: 'Arafat has caused this war one way or another and has poured oil on the fire. His intention is not only to set Lebanon against Syria but probably also to make the Palestinians despair and accept Jordanian-Israeli measures being taken in the West Bank, such as normalization [of relations] and things like that.

Upon his arrival in Damascus, Minister Junblatt consulted with Minister Birri, who briefed him on the atmosphere prevailing in the Syrian capital.

In another development, Minister Birri visited Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, at his place of residence in Damascus the day before yesterday. Birri informed Shams al-Din of the results of the meetings and consultations held in the Syrian capital. Later that night, Khaddam met with Shaykh Shams al-Din and Minister Birri.

Responding to a question, Minister Birri said the Saudi interior minister's visit to Damascus had nothing to do with the problem of the camps and surrounding areas. He added that he had met with the Iranian ambassador in Damascus and their discussions had centered on the camps problem.

Minister Birri noted that any agreement must incorporate two basic provisions: the withdrawal of the Palestinians to within their camps, and guarantees that the Al-Awali-Sayniq road will be kept open. He declared: I will not attend any meeting unless these two conditions are met. He stated he could suggest ways of ensuring that the coastal road is opened up, based on a comprehensive plan to remedy the situation in Sidon. He concluded by saying: We are ready for everything if it is guaranteed that these two conditions will be met.

Shams al-Din Meets Arab-American Society Members

NC011019 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Muhammad Mahdi, chairman of the Arab-American Society, and members of his delegation met today with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council. The meeting came as part of the delegation's efforts to bring about the release of U.S. hostages.

Fadlallah Meets Group

NC022104 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Muhammad Mahdi, secretary general of the National Council for Islamic Affairs in the United States [title as heard], and his assistant met with scholar Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah [Hizballah leader] today. Following this meeting, Shaykh Fadlallah asserted that Washington has prevented Kuwait from releasing its Arab prisoners in response to a request by the kidnappers of U.S. and French hostages being held in Lebanon. Scholar Fadlallah denied he had any relations with the kidnappers.

After his meeting with Shaykh Fadlallah, Muhammad Mahdi said he has not yet received any reply from the kidnappers. He affirmed that he expects to receive one within the week. He added that he will visit Ba'labakk to meet with people concerned with this issue.

Sheykh ol-Eslam, Shams al-Din Discuss Camps War

LD021434 Tehran IRNA in English 1428 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 2, IRNA — Vice-Chairman of Lebanon's Shi'ite supreme assembly Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din met and conferred with Iran's visiting Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, here Tuesday.

Views were exchanged at the meeting on the Lebanese situations, especially efforts to end the camps clashes there.

'Israeli Blackmail' Should Be Confronted Openly

JN010825 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Dec 86

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Under the headline "The Bonn Government and Israeli Blackmail," *Tishrin* says: When Israel succeeds in harming Arab-FRG relations, particularly Syrian-FRG relations, it is in fact doubling the possibility of blackmailing the Bonn government to extract more aid. This policy is not new. Israel carried out many operations in Europe and the Arab region against European and American installations to create a rupture between the Europeans and the Arabs. We all recall the famous Lavon affair where, at the instigation of the enemy defense minister, Mosad agents sabotaged U.S. installations in Egypt in order to elicit from the Americans a hostile stand toward the July revolution and to drag them into an undeclared war against Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir.

The paper continues: It is obvious that the Israeli blackmail of Europe has reached serious limits, thus endangering its independence. Although the Paris government sounded the alarm, confronting this blackmail — which has taken the shape of open terrorism — must not be done in secret; instead, this blackmail should be openly dealt with. It is time the European governments pointed to the true perpetrators, instead of leaking information to the media. It is in Europe's interest to clarify facts instead of submitting to further Israeli blackmail.

President's Letter on Palestinian Rights

JN011936 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Dec 86

["Text" of letter from President Hafiz al-Asad to the UN Committee on Palestinian People's Rights on 30 November; read by announcer]

[Text] Mr Chairman of the Committee on Palestinian People's Rights, United Nations, New York: On behalf of the Syrian Arab people and on my own behalf, it gives me pleasure to salute your meeting, dedicated to solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people in their just struggle to regain their usurped rights.

When we mention the Palestinian Arab people, a picture of the gross injustice they suffered comes to mind as a consequence of a plot hatched in the capitals of colonialism in collusion with world Zionism. The Palestinian people, who have been enduring an aggression never experienced in the history of mankind, are victims of an imperialist policy seeking to dominate the Arab homeland — a policy whose objectives were identical with those of Zionism in dismembering the Arab homeland and creating Israel in its midst as an advance imperialist base and a tool for aggression and expansion.

Britain and the United States played the major role in enforcing this policy. They played the greatest role in enabling Zionism to invade and occupy Palestine, in displacing the overwhelming majority of its people through savage massacres and terrorist actions, and in enabling Israel, once it was established, to oppress, coerce, and persecute those Palestinians who remained on their land; to confiscate their lands; and subsequently, to expand by armed aggression into Arab territories adjacent to Palestine for the sake of realizing the Zionist scheme of establishing greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

The U.S. and British policies are the source of all the pain and suffering of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. These policies are also responsible for the dangerous situation in the Middle East, threatening world peace and security.

Rather than working to establish a just peace as they should to do as permanent members of the UN Security Council, these two countries have consistently supported Israeli aggression, helped Israel commit aggression and violate the UN Charter, and aligned themselves with Israel in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The international community, represented by the United Nations, has the responsibility of forcing Israel to implement resolutions related to the rights of the Palestinian people, especially as Israel was established by a UN resolution.

We still remember the pressure applied by the United States so the resolution could be passed by a one-vote majority. The United Nations accepted Israel as a member on condition that Israel abide by the UN Charter and resolutions. Despite its continuous violation of the UN Charter and resolutions, Israel still enjoys membership in the world body.

The Palestinian people's cause is the central cause for us in Syria and the crux of our struggle for just peace in our region, which can be attained by ending Israeli occupation of Arab lands and recognizing the Palestinian people's rights, as called for by UN resolutions, within the framework of an international conference. Our position is clear. But Israel, supported by imperialist and colonialist forces, is blocking the road leading to just peace and trying to impose on the Arabs capitulationist terms that meet U.S.-Israeli conditions.

Syria will continue to support the just struggle of the Palestinian people until they regain their national rights in full. I wish your meeting success in supporting the Palestinian people and their rights, which if recognized, would make a major contribution to the establishment of just peace, for which we are striving.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Azad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic
Damascus 30 November, 1986

Bulgaria's Tanchev Received by Assembly Speaker

JN011527 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Petur Tanchev, Bulgarian State Council first deputy chairman and secretary of the National Agrarian Union, has praised Syria's important role under President Hafiz al-Asad, its prominent status among progressive countries, and its dynamic foreign policy in confronting imperialism and Zionism in this sensitive and strategic area in the world. He said Syria, which is confronting pressures and hostile provocations, is not alone in its battles for liberation, and that Bulgaria and all socialist bloc countries, as well as all forces of progress and liberation in the world, support Syria in its struggle for the sake of its causes and just Arab causes.

This took place when People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Tanchev and his accompanying delegation this morning. The Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Tanchev expressed thanks for the warm reception he and his delegation are being accorded and his happiness at visiting Syria. He said he and his accompanying delegation see this visit as an expression of the Bulgarian people's solidarity with the friendly Syrian people. Tanchev then reviewed some achievements in Bulgaria as well as several current international issues. He also expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between Syria and Bulgaria on all levels and emphasized the need to constantly promote them in service of both countries' common interests.

For his part, Mahmud al-Zu'bi welcomed the delegation and said he hopes the delegation's visit to Syria will be a successful one, stressing that this visit by a ranking delegation demonstrates the solid friendship and the excellent relations between the two friendly peoples and countries, particularly in the current circumstances where Syria is experiencing a fierce imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

Al-Zu'bi praised Bulgaria's stand supporting just Arab causes and stressed that bilateral relations and the bases of friendship and cooperation which were laid down by Presidents al-Asad and Zhivkov are deeply entrenched and are continuously developing in issues of mutual interest, including solid parliamentary relations, exchange of visits and expertise, and coordination of stands on parliamentary issues and other topics put forth for discussion in international parliamentary fora.

Al-Zu'bi then explained some of the economic and social achievements Syria has scored under the canopy of the Ba'th Party and struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, Ba'th Party secretary general, namely, the issue of democracy and its institutions such as local government, the People's Assembly, the election of its members, the People's Assembly's political and social configuration, and its prerogatives and activities.

Al-Zu'bi also reviewed some current Arab and international issues and Syria's stand. Al-Zu'bi stressed that the Syrian people under President Hafiz al-Asad are determined to pursue the struggle and confront all kinds of pressures, conspiracies, and challenges with determination, courage, and fearlessness until they score a final victory against their enemies and establish a society of progress and socialism based on their inherent strength and the support of friends, forces of progress and liberation in the world, and socialist countries, particularly the friendly USSR.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN021757 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] At noon today President Hafiz al-Asad received Petur Tanchev, first vice president of the Bulgarian State Council and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Tanchev handed the president a letter from Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov, expressing the solidarity of the People's Republic of Bulgaria with the Syrian Arab Republic in confronting pressures, ambitions, and the aggressive schemes of imperialism and Zionism.

Talks dealt with international and regional developments as well as bilateral relations. Tanchev expressed his country's condemnation of the new imperialist-Zionist campaign against Syria and its firm support for Syria in standing up to the schemes and aggressive imperialist-Zionist maneuvers to impose their will and hegemony on Syria and the Arabs. Bulgaria, he added, praises Syria's principled and peace-loving foreign policy and its extremely important role in combating Israel's U.S.-backed policy of militarism and invasion.

The president expressed his thanks for Bulgaria's solidarity with Syria in facing the imperialist-Zionist campaign of pressures and threats, adding that Syria will not deviate from its anti- imperialist and anti-Zionist line, rejecting all forms of imperialist domination of the area or of capitulation to Israel. President al-Asad said the Syrian people's morale is high and that they are prepared for the sacrifices needed to abort imperialist-Zionist schemes. Current pressures on Syria, he added, are doomed because the Syrian masses, the Armed Forces, Arab masses, and Syria's friends in the socialist bloc, led by the USSR, are capable of defeating imperialist-Zionist plans of hegemony and expansion.

Tanchev also extended an invitation for President al-Asad to visit the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The president accepted the invitation and promised to act upon it at an early date.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN030740 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Petur Tanchev, first vice president of the Bulgarian State Council, left Damascus yesterday following a visit to Syria during which he conveyed a message from Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the Bulgarian State Council to President Hafiz al-Asad. Tanchev conveyed an invitation to President al-Asad to visit Bulgaria. The president accepted the invitation and promised to visit Bulgaria at an early date.

Al-Shar' Meets Franjiyah, Bulgarian Official

JN021357 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Robert Franjiyah and discussed with him the situation in Lebanon. The minister also received Ivan Ganev, Bulgarian deputy foreign minister for Middle East Affairs. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'allah al-Fattal; Jabir al-Kafri, director of the East European desk at the Foreign Ministry; and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the international situation, Middle East developments, and friendly bilateral relations.

11 Lawyers Released at Union Head's Request

JN021953 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Dec (SUNA) — The Syrian authorities have released 11 Syrian lawyers who spent about 5 years under arrest. This was stated to the newspaper *Al-Maydan*, organ of the Sudanese Communist Party, by Nur al-Din al-Habbal, doyen of Syrian lawyers, who is currently visiting the country to attend the meetings of the Union of Arab Lawyers which began in Khartoum today. He explained that he received a cable yesterday informing the secretary general of the Union of Arab Lawyers of this action.

Faruq Abu 'Isa, secretary general of the Union of Arab Lawyers, requested the release of those lawyers during his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad last April. *Al-Maydan* cited Abu 'Isa as saying that this was the greatest gift presented to the lawyers' meeting.

People's Assembly Reviews Supply Situation

JN022109 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly held a session this evening under Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The session was attended by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and ministers.

The People's Assembly discusssed the report submitted by its special committee on the supply situation in the country, including basic commodities, and the issue of distribution, prices, and supply control. [passage omitted]

The report reviewed the situation of commodities in terms of quantities available for consumption and their prices.

The report noted that there is a shortage of some of these quantities and stressed the need to avoid a shortage in basic commodities.

As for prices, the report noted their imbalance and proposed the need to have one body in the country responsible for unifying prices of all commodities throughout Syria as well as stabilizing these prices if possible.

With respect to supply control, the report recommended establishing permanent centers for supply control and making popular organizations participate in these centers, supervise distribution, create supply courts, and take into account elements tampering with the people's livelihood.

The report also discussed the situation of bakeries from all aspects. [passage omitted]

With respect to government-run consumer stores, the report recommended developing activities of these stores to secure basic foodstuffs, eliminate bottlenecks, crises, monopolies, and brokerages, and to distribute imported goods and those locally produced in addition to setting their prices. [passage omitted]

The report concluded by saying that the supply crisis in the country is transient and fabricated and can be overcome by depending on one's own resources, increasing production, and rationalizing expenditures and consumption. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage, Commentary on Arms Deal

Cooperation With U.S. Investigators

TA031610 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — live]

[Excerpt] Shamir, Peres, and Rabin have made a decision in principle in anticipation of an expected U.S. request [to question Israelis involved in the Iran arms affair] which, although it has not yet been received, will certainly come. Teams of experts in the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry have in the last few days been dealing with the question of how Israel should react when the Americans officially ask Israel to allow it to interrogate those involved.

The conclusions were submitted to the decision-making trio — the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister — and the decision in principle adopted at the end of the consultations was to have been expected: Israel will comply with the U.S. request although it will seek to make sure that its interests and those of the people questioned are not harmed.

To the regret of many, there is a precedent in this matter. In the Pollard affair, Israel made sure that those Israelis who were questioned would not be personally harmed as a result of giving testimony.

It should be noted once again that Washington has not yet submitted an official request. However, in off-the-record talks at the working level in both the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Embassy in Washington the possibility has been raised on more than one occasion that Israel may shortly be asked to cooperate with the investigation. [passage omitted]

DIE WELT Interviews Shamir

DW031121 Bonn DIE WELT in German 3 Dec 86 p 6

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by *Die Welt* editor Juergen Liminski; date and place not given]

[Text] *Die Welt*: Mr Prime Minister: The first question must deal with the U.S.-Iran-Israel connection.
Shamir: That does not surprise me.

Die Welt: Have the shipments been stopped?
Shamir: Naturally.

Die Welt: Will they be resumed later on?
Shamir: You know, it was mainly an American operation. You know what is going on in the United States now. I do not believe that the Washington government is now in a position to make a decision on it.

Die Welt: According to U.S. media reports, Israel has supplied weapons to Central America for a long time. Is that true?
Shamir: It is not true. Israel has never supplied weapons or money to the contras. We sell weapons to some countries in Latin America, not to the contras, not to private organizations, only to countries.

Die Welt: To Nicaragua also?
Shamir: No. Nicaragua is a communist country. We do not sell weapons to communist countries.

Die Welt: But maybe to anticommunist rebels?
Shamir: No. Only to independent states.

Die Welt: Iran, for example?
Shamir: That is a different matter. This is a joint operation together with the United States in which we helped to bring weapons to Iran.

Die Welt: How many?
Shamir: I do not know the exact quantity, but it was not much.

Die Welt: Enough to decide a war?
Shamir: In no case. The target of the operation was to free U.S. hostages and to facilitate a certain political dialogue with political elements in Iran. Israel was just an instrument; the initiative came from America. That is all.

Die Welt: Do you believe that this joint operation was helpful in relations with America?
Shamir: Certainly. We have strategic cooperation with the United States. If the United States asks us for help, we are prepared to give it.

Die Welt: And if the United States asks Israel to supply weapons to the contras?
Shamir: That would be something else again. It would contradict U.S. Senate resolutions that determined that the United States would not supply weapons to the contras. Therefore, we would not comply with such a request without the knowledge and permission of Congress.

Die Welt: There are rumors that Iraq wants to get weapons from Israel also.
Shamir: I know nothing of that. I read that report, but I know nothing of it.

Die Welt: Other rumors say that Iran asked Israel to cut the supply line from Aqaba to Baghdad.
Shamir: You know, if you want me to deny all the current rumors, we will sit here all night and still not be done.

Die Welt: Now about the peace process — was progress achieved after the meetings in Morocco and Alexandria?
Shamir: It depends on what one consider a peace process. If it is a matter of creating a better atmosphere, the answer is yes.

Die Welt: What do you think of an international Middle East conference?
Shamir: An international Middle East conference corresponds to the wishes of the Soviets and the Arab states. I do not believe that such a conference will contribute anything to peace in our region. We believe only in direct contacts between us and our neighbors. Only in direct face to face talks can we achieve peace, but not through conferences where countries participate that do

not maintain normal relations with us — like Russia and China. That would only be a propaganda forum and lead to no progress. I think little of that. However, under certain circumstances I would not object to an international conference. For example, if it took place after specific agreements with our neighbors. Perhaps an international conference would then be necessary to ratify the agreement or to secure guarantees. Maybe. First and most important, agreements must be drawn up between Israel and its neighbors through direct contacts.

Die Welt: Why do the Arab countries attach so much importance to an international conference?
Shamir: First, they do not want to start direct negotiations with Israel, because that would presuppose the recognition of Israel. Second, at an international conference, there would always be a majority against Israel. The Soviet Union and other countries would always side with the Arabs. That is why the Arab position has always been that the United Nations should decide on the situation in the Middle East. The Arabs have always advocated internationalization of the conflict. That is not in our interest. We do not want to depend on international protection. We are an independent country and want to negotiate with other countries on the basis of equality.

Die Welt: It looks as if there was some quiet cooperation between Israel and King Husayn. Three mayors have been installed in the West Bank, the Cairo-Amman bank opened a branch, and trade is flourishing.
Shamir: That is an exaggeration. There is no cooperation with Jordan. There are only a few points on which we agree.

Die Welt: How about direct contacts with the Soviet Union?
Shamir: We have no direct contacts with the Soviet Union. There was a meeting in Helsinki several months ago, but that has not been continued.

Die Welt: Has the normalization process with the Soviet Union stopped now? Are there additional contacts with other Eastern bloc countries?
Shamir: We have an office in Warsaw, which constitutes our diplomatic representation and is located in the building of the former Israeli embassy. We hope that it is the beginning of normal relations with Poland. The Poles have an office representing its interests in Tel Aviv.

During the recent UN General Assembly, I met the Hungarian and Bulgarian foreign ministers. We discussed mutual representations of interests. They are neither for nor against them. At least not right now. It will probably materialize eventually.

Die Welt: Regarding terrorism, what do you think about the German and European measures against Syria?
Shamir: The EC decision to take measures against any country supporting terrorism — in this case Syria — is encouraging. It is a step forward. I would like tougher measures, but it undoubtedly is the right way.

Die Welt: Do you believe that President al-Asad is directly involved in terrorism?
Shamir: Syria, the Syrian Government, is involved. We know the Syrian Government system. It is not a totalitarian, but an autocratic system, and it is inconceivable for the president not to be informed about everything that the government is doing. There is no indication that anything is being done without the president's knowledge.

Die Welt: What do you mean by tougher measures?
Shamir: Well, Europeans know what I mean.

Die Welt: Follow the British example?
Shamir: Why not? If somebody is really serious about acting against terrorism he will have to prevent every country from supporting terrorists, because terrorist organizations depend on countries for help. For example, the PLO could not exist without the support from Arab countries, the Soviet Union, and the Eastern European countries. They all give logistical, financial, and military assistance, and occasionally also provide training camps. Terror organizations use diplomatic couriers to smuggle weapons, and they also use diplomatic passports in many countries. Without that support, they would be unable to continue their terrorist activities.

Die Welt: Your government has said that Israel will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the region. Can Israel introduce such weapons?
Shamir: We say that Israel will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons. That is our policy. We are ready to negotiate with all the countries of the region on a nuclear-free zone.

Die Welt: Would you continue to object to German weapons sales to Arab countries if Germany were to supply weapons to Israel as well?
Shamir: We did not ask Germany for weapons. We have repeatedly expressed our desire that Germany not sell weapons to Arab countries that do not live in peace with Israel. We say the same thing to the United States and to all other countries. In the case of Germany we have additional reasons.

Die Welt: How do you assess Israel's relations with the Federal Republic?
Shamir: Our relations are cordial and friendly. We cooperate in many fields. At the same time, we must recall a historic dimension that is tragic and forms part of the relations between the German and Jewish peoples. We expect Germany always to be aware of that past, so that future generations are better equipped to open a new chapter in the two peoples' relationship.

Die Welt: When will you have an ambassador in Austria again?
Shamir: When the time for such a decision arrives.

Officials Deny Nir Involvement

TA030821 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Dec 86 p 1

[Report by Hirst Goodman]

[Text] Israeli officials have emphatically denied any prior knowledge of the transfer of funds to the Contras.

The Jerusalem Post has been assured by the highest possible sources that Israel "learned of the transfer of the funds to the Contras just hours before the news was made public by Attorney General Meese."

Two principals involved in the planning and execution of the Iranian arms deal on behalf of the U.S. said they were "horrified" by the news of the secret funding.

"If you think that Israel would have jeopardised its excellent relations with the Congress by being party to a deal that was intended to circumvent it, than you have a very shallow grasp of international relations," *The Post* was told.

The Post has further been assured by the same sources that Israeli ministers aware of the details of the Iranian arms transfer are satisfied that the prime minister's adviser on terror, 'Amiram Nir, knew nothing about the Contras connection. They expressed full confidence in Nir's abilities and integrity, and "welcomed any American investigation that would help clarify the issues, if the Americans desire such an investigation."

"We have absolutely nothing to hide. In fact," *The Post* was told, "we viewed our role as an... expression of the strategic accords that bind Israel and the U.S. and assumed, and continued to assume, that we were acting on behalf of the President of the United States. Relevant top-echelon American officials were full partners in the evolution of the deal, and were duly briefed on all aspects of it," *The Post* was told.

PM's Office Defends Nir

TA031055 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1042 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] The office of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has again denied any prior Israeli knowledge of the transfer of money from the arms deals with Iran to the Nicaraguan rebels. An official communique issued a short while ago by the office spokesman states that if there is truth to today's press reports that U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North told the Attorney General's Office investigators that he had briefed 'Amiram Nir on the destination of the money, this is completely unfounded. 'Amiram Nir had no idea that the funds, or parts thereof, were intended for the Nicaraguan contras.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the communique was issued following ministerial consultations held this morning in the Prime Minister's Office on the Iranian affair.

Saudi Arabia Implicated

TA020828 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Dec 86 pp 1, 2

[Report from Washington by Wolf Blitzer and from London by David Horowitz]

[Excerpts] President Reagan and other senior administration officials are continuing to suggest that Israel was directly involved in the transfer of profits from the Iran arms sales to the contras fighting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

But sources involved in the affair told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that if any third country had in fact channelled funds to the contras, it was Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi role may have been connected with the arrangement under which the Saudis finally received AWACS surveillance planes from the U.S.

Israeli officials in Washington were deeply upset by the president's comments, which received extensive publicity in the American news media and so obviously contradicted Israel's official denial. [passage omitted]

Shamir Message to Shultz

TA020945 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Dec 86 pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Tzvi Bar'el]

[Excerpt] In a message he sent to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denies that Israel was involved in the financing of the "contras" in Nicaragua. The message was sent in the wake of President Reagan's remarks in *Time* magazine about a third country which had transferred to the "contras" remuneration Iran paid for the arms supplies. Shamir asked Israel's Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne to inform Shultz, and through him the President, that Israel had had nothing to do with it and had not even known until Attorney General Edwin Meese disclosed that the money from the Swiss bank account had been transferred to the "contras."

The decision to send the message was made yesterday in a meeting between the prime minister and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres after clarifications in Washington gave rise to fears that the President's remarks about a third country pointed to Israel. Great concern was expressed in Jerusalem yesterday about this turn of events which has once again attracted attention to Israel. On the other hand, a senior Israeli official said last night, "we do not want to lock horns with the U.S. President." [passage omitted]

'Concern' Over Reagan Interview

TA020708 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Talk between program moderator Mikha Friedman and political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — live in the studio]

[Text] [Friedman] We will open with our daily regular question: Has there been a request to question Israelis whose names have been mentioned in connection with the affair of the arms supply to Iran?

[Frankel] Knowledgeable sources with whom we spoke this morning again assured us that no official U.S. request regarding an investigation of the Iran affair has arrived in Israel as yet.

However, it should be noted that this is merely a formality because all those familiar with the subject know for certain that it is only a matter of days, or a few hours, before it arrives. The reports on this issue will eventually come true and this possibility has indeed been raised in off-the-record talks conducted by the Israeli Embassy staff in Washington.

It should also be noted that several parallel investigations — at least three — will shortly be conducted in the United States. Consequently, several requests are expected to be submitted to Israel to cooperate. In any event, it is clear to the Americans that Israel will cooperate and help, just as it did in the past. However, political sources reiterated to us that Israel should meticulously look after its interests. For example, Jerusalem will ask that the probe be conducted here in Israel, not in the United States, either by U.S. envoys or in the form of a questionnaire, and efforts will also be made to ensure that the Israelis who are questioned will not be hurt as a result of the investigations.

[Friedman] Meanwhile, until the U.S. request arrives, we have another issue to discuss — namely, the interview President Reagan gave to *Time* Magazine where he talked about a third country that had transferred funds to the Nicaraguan contras. Reagan did not mention Israel by name, but the hint was obvious. How does Jerusalem react to President Reagan's statements?

[Frankel] President Reagan's remarks definitely gave rise to concern in Jerusalem. The matter was looked into and it is believed here that Reagan said what he did based on information given to him by Attorney General Edwin Meese, apparently without knowing about the Israeli denial issued last week. The interview with *Time* took place in the middle of last week.

In consultations held in Jerusalem yesterday, it was decided not to issue a public reaction to the remarks attributed to the U.S. President. As a rule, the Israeli tendency is to keep as low a profile as possible so as not to attract attention to Israel. Also, the fact that the President did not explicitly mention Israel by name helped make this decision. At the same time, however, the Israeli Embassy in Washington was asked last night to transfer to Attorney General Edwin Meese, who is a key figure in the development of this affair....

[Friedman, interrupting] He is the first one who mentioned Israel by name as being connected to the transfer of funds to the contras.

[Frankel] He was the first one to do so and apparently he is also the man who helps the President with advice and information. The embassy was asked to convey to him the text of our public communique of last week according to which Israel had nothing to do with the transfer of funds from Iran to the Nicaraguan rebels.

[Friedman] What is the significance of this step? After all, the communique was carried by the media and it must certainly have reached Meese and, from him, Reagan.

[Frankel] Officials here thought it would be best to repeat the denial and to make sure that the Americans are very well aware of what Israel thinks and knows. At this point, maybe we should note that repeated checks with all the elements involved in the affair conducted over the last few days in Jerusalem once again confirm that Israel had no prior knowledge about the destination of the funds the Iranians transferred in exchange for the weapons.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir disclosed yesterday in a meeting with the president of B'nai B'rith that Israel had in the past rejected proposals and requests to assist the contras because, among other things, it knew this would contravene explicit Congress decisions. Shamir noted that all Israeli arms sales to Central American countries — and such sales have been carried out — had been fully coordinated with the U.S. State Department.

Meese Contacts Ambassador Rosenne

TA030520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese explained last night that the administration is not accusing Israel of any wrongdoing in connection with the arms sales to Iran or the transfer of money to the Nicaraguan rebels. He said this over the telephone to our ambassador in Washington.

Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne called the attorney general and emphasized once more that Israel had no involvement in and no knowledge of the transfer of funds. Secretary Meese expressed the hope that Israel will cooperate with the U.S. bodies that are investigating these affairs.

Peres: No Knowledge of Contra Tie

TA021830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres referred to the Iran arms controversy in Pardes Hana today. Vivien Royston reports:

[Begin recording] [Royston] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres categorically denies that Israel received any financial gain in the Iran arms deal.

[Peres] Israel didn't do what she did for any financial reasons or purposes, or for any sort of expediency. That was neither the reason nor the purpose.

[Royston] Israel, continued Peres, is a country which is not soft on terrorism, but it will never forget the fate of a single individual that has become a prisoner or a hostage.

[Peres] I feel very strongly that this is the essence of democracy, and I admit that there is a contradiction between the two efforts: one, not to submit to the whims of terrorists, and the other, not to forget.

[Royston] On the question of the monies from the deal reaching the contras in Nicaragua, Foreign Minister Peres is adamant that if it did reach the contras it was without Israel's knowledge.

In the final analysis, Foreign Minister Peres feels that the whole deal has been highly inflated. [end recording]

Peres Defends Arms Sale

TA030712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres rejected the charges against his failure to raise the issue of the arms deals with Iran before the Cabinet or the Inner Cabinet and seek their approval. I have no regrets, he continues to maintain; our motives were pure. Shim'on Peres was speaking to Pardes Hana students yesterday, and Haviva Roger brings excerpts of his remarks:

[Begin Peres recording] It is customary in the Cabinet that anything related to the sale or shipment of arms is approved by three ministers: the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister. No one has ever questioned this practice or sought a debate on it, either in the Inner Cabinet or in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Therefore this matter, just like others, was indeed discussed by the forum of these three ministers, and they approved it. Thus any argument against this decisionmaking process is a bit tardy. I am also not sure that there are any other countries in the world that make their arms sales or purchases public, and do not forget that our country is still in a very special situation both with respect to its arms purchases and in terms of its arms sales. Our people have agreed to keep this subject more or less secret, and there is a national consensus on this. That is why we acted in this case as we have on similar subjects. [end recording]

Rabin Denies Contra Tie

TA021641 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Report by Knesset correspondent Yinon Shenkar]

[Text] A few minutes ago the Knesset struck off its agenda the two motions on Israel's military assistance. In his motion Knesset member [MK] Matityahu Peled of the Progressive List for Peace complained about Israel's involvement in military assistance to the Third World. MK Haya Grossman from MAPAM attacked the government for the involvement of Israelis in Nicaragua and South American countries. The issue cannot remain unsupervised, Grossman said.

[Begin Grossman recording] The trading of arms, military training, cannot be unsupervised. And the supervision procedure must be established. In this respect we must be more sensitive than the United States. [end recording]

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the third member of the Peres-Shamir-Rabin decisionmaking trio, replied to the motions on the agenda, first explaining Israel's policy on the sale of arms.

[Begin Rabin recording] Israel's policy on the export of arms is determined by a series of considerations: political, security, military, and economic. Every decision is made by a forum of at least three ministers. [end recording]

Afterwards, the defense minister said that we did not know about the transfer of money to the Nicaraguan rebels, and we did not carry this out.

[Begin Rabin recording] The Israeli Government does not have any contacts or ties with, and does not supply arms from here to the rebels fighting against the Nicaraguan Government. Israel did not authorize any Israeli to assist, supply information, or sell arms from Israel to the rebels fighting the Nicaraguan Government. [end recording]

Official Nicaraguan Delegation Postpones Visit

TA030940 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] An official Nicaraguan delegation that was scheduled to visit Israel next month at the invitation of MAPAM has announced a postponement of the visit. Reference is to an Agriculture Ministry delegation that would have been the first official delegation from that country since the Sandinista revolution. The letter explaining the reasons for the postponement has not yet reached Israel, and no one knows whether the reason is reports that Israel had helped transfer funds to the rebels in Nicaragua.

Secret Contacts With USSR 'Senior' Diplomats Noted

TA030704 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] The Soviet Union has been showing interest in resuming official talks with Israel with the hope of establishing consular ties in return for the incorporation of the Soviet Union in the regional political process. This transpires from a series of contacts that have recently been held in Western capitals between Israeli and Soviet officials. 'Oz Frankel is in our Jerusalem studios:

[Frankel — live] At the end of his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze 2 months ago, then Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that a tiny crack, as he called it, has opened in the great wall. It now appears that that tiny crack is widening, and this time we are talking about a series of secret contacts between senior diplomats from both countries who have been holding planned talks with a clear purpose in which the Soviet side has been evincing interest in resuming open contacts with Israel with the hope of establishing bilateral consular ties, at least, at the initial stage.

The Soviets maintain that the Helsinki talks ended unsuccessfully due to the heavy public pressure applied by Israel over the Jewish issue, and are suggesting that some form of follow-up to the talks be found, in one framework or another. The Soviet representatives have also reported readiness to reconsider their country's attitude toward the emigration of Jews living there, maintaining that an improvement in the condition of Soviet Jewry has already occurred. The representatives have also explained that a process of reassessing the Middle East policy has recently been going on in Moscow, based on the assessment that the USSR's exclusive support for Syria is preventing it from

having any real role to speak of in the Middle East political process.

Let us add that these contacts will soon be continued, and they will come in addition to reports from Israeli Embassies in Europe indicating an increasing Soviet interest in resuming the bilateral dialogue. All this further corroborates the feeling here in Jerusalem that something has been moving in Moscow — slowly but surely — and that the movement is in the direction of Israel.

Shamir Denies New Stand on International Forum

TA020956 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Dec 86 p 2

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir would agree to convening an "international forum," but only after an agreement has been reached in direct negotiations with its partners to the peace talks. This was stated yesterday by the Prime Minister's Office, thus denying reports that Shamir's position on the proposal to convene an international peace conference had, as it were, changed.

It should be noted that this position contravenes the stand proclaimed by former Prime Minister Peres in the Knesset in October 1985 and approved in a subsequent vote. According to the version presented to the Knesset, the international conference is supposed to be a framework for the opening, rather than for the conclusion, of negotiations.

It was reported on Shamir's behalf that the prime minister insists that the only way to attain peace agreements is through direct negotiations, and that an "international forum" can only give its blessings to the arrangements attained in direct negotiations.

Shamir Confirms Syria Has Chemical Weapons

TA020946 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Dec 86 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has for the first time confirmed that Syria has chemical weapons. In a meeting with U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye in Jerusalem yesterday, Shamir said: "Syria is arming itself with modern chemical weapons." According to the prime minister, Israel must keep alert and the IDF must be prepared to prevent any surprises. "This calls for a vast financial effort, and U.S. assistance on this issue is vital," Shamir said. [passage omitted]

Shamir, Rabin Comment

TA021517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The defense minister says that the Cabinet is aware of the serious danger from chemical weapons and will do everything in its power to prepare against it.

Responding to a query by Knesset Member Amnon Linn, Minister Rabin said that Syria possesses chemical weapons mounted on artillery and surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles. Syria is even prepared to propagate chemical weapons and put them at the disposal of other countries in the region. It may have already given chemical weapons to Iran. The gravest aspect of the affair is that the world is apathetic to the horrors of chemical warfare. The limitations imposed by the Europeans on the export of chemical materials are minimal, and these countries hardly interfere to block exports.

Earlier, the prime minister told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the IDF is making efforts to step up its deterrent capability vis-a-vis Syria, among others against chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

No Signal From Poland on Higher Level of Relations

TA020837 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Dec 86 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris and REUTER]

[Excerpts] There have been no "signals" by Poland in recent weeks indicating that Warsaw is contemplating raising the level of diplomatic representation with Israel, according to informed sources in Jerusalem.

The sources were reacting to an interview with Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski, published yesterday in the Danish newspaper *Berlingske Tidende*, in which the minister was quoted as saying that the current level of representation "may well develop into full diplomatic status." [passage omitted]

The sources in Jerusalem said that Orzechowski's statements were "interesting," but they suggested that he may have been responding to questions rather than initiating statements on his own.

Foreign Ministry sources declined to comment officially last night on the statements, saying they would first like to see the full text of the interview, which has not yet reached them from Copenhagen.

Polish Interests Office To Change Operation

TA021004 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Dec 86 p 5

[Report by Refa'el Mann]

[Text] The Polish "interests office" which recently opened in Tel Aviv will not be able to operate in the framework of the Polish P.K.O. Bank, as had been agreed in negotiations between the two countries.

Galya Ma'or, the examiner of banks of the Bank of Israel, has recently informed the Foreign Ministry that the handling of consular matters in the framework of a bank is forbidden by law.

It has emerged that this restriction had not been known to the officials who conducted the negotiations with the Polish Government on the opening of the interests office.

Political sources noted that the Bank of Israel's announcement would not affect the practical activities of the office, and that a legal way to operate the Polish office is currently being sought. [passage omitted]

Senior Polish Economic Representative Visiting

TA030552 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] A rare visitor to Israel, without the cloak of secrecy albeit at a low profile, a senior economic representative of the Polish Government has been in Israel for a few days. He is currently serving as the man in charge of foreign currency in the Polish Finance Ministry and he is the most senior delegate to visit Israel, at least since the 6-Day War. The details were learned by our economic affairs correspondent in Tel Aviv, Gadi Sukenik.

[Begin Sukenik recording] Zbigniew Karcz, who arrived in Israel 2 days ago, supervises the Polish budget and deals with foreign countries. He is also the president of the PKO bank, one of the largest government-run banks in his country, which has had a branch operating in Israel for 53 years. Karcz represents Poland in the IMF, too. His predecessors served as directors of the Israeli PKO branch after they retired from official government posts, but since the 6-Day War no representative of his high rank has visited Israel.

The senior Polish official will hold meetings this morning with the governor of the Bank of Israel. Later he will meet with the finance minister and with the directors of the larger banks. The purpose of the visit is to expand economic and trade ties between the two countries, and to indirectly increase the volume of activity of the PKO bank's Tel Aviv branch and rejuvenate it — in other words, restore to it the scope of activity that it had prior to the 1967 war. As far as we know, this does not necessarily involve more commerce between the two governments, but rather between private entrepreneurs. What about an economic thaw? Perhaps. One must bear in mind that the Poles have close economic relations with the Arab countries, too. I have learned that this visit is the result of preparatory meetings with Israelis held outside Israel. It seems that the visit is also connected, if only indirectly, with the recent resumption of foreign relations between the two countries, sensitive and limited though they may be. [end recording]

'Terrorist' Squad Arrested on Golan Heights

TA020530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The security forces in the north have arrested a terrorist squad which planned to attack IDF units on the Golan Heights. The squad belongs to George Habash's Democratic Front and was organized by a youth from the village of Mas'adah on the Golan Heights.

The members of the squad were arrested following an investigation and will shortly be brought before a military court for trial.

4 SLA Soldiers Killed, 7 Wounded in Security Zone

TA020941 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Four soldiers of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] were killed and seven were wounded in a firing incident on the northern boundary of the security zone this morning. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that fighting broke out between SLA soldiers and terrorists who attacked two SLA positions. Reinforcements were summoned to the scene. A land mine which exploded next to them also injured three soldiers.

Hizballah 'Terrorists' Involved

TA021504 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1432 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Dozens of Shi'ite terrorists belonging to Hizballah were involved in the attacks on South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in the security zone today. This is reported by our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz. One of the terrorists was killed in the fighting, and others who were wounded are known to have succeeded in escaping from the area. As reported, four SLA soldiers were killed and seven others injured in the fighting today.

W. Bank Institutions To Close Following Rioting

TA011754 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1339 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Four educational institutions in Judaea and Samaria will be closed for the rest of the week in the wake of the rioting there over the past few days. This was decided upon by the institutions' directors. Our correspondent Ilan Ben-Dor reports that this involves three educational centers run by UNRWA in Qalandiyah and Ramallah, as well as a private college called (Shiyuqi), also in Ramallah.

Mufti Interviewed on Protection Needs, U.S. 'Enemy'

TA281858 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 28 Nov 86 p 16

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'ad al-Din al-'Alami, head of the Higher Islamic Council in Jerusalem, by *Al-Fajr's* Sami al-'Abudi; place and date not given]

[Text] *Al-Fajr*: There were different versions in the press about your request of foreign diplomats last week. What exactly did you ask them for?
Al-'Alami: I met with the foreign diplomats in an appeal to the world to protect Jerusalem's Arab residents from Jewish attacks. My house and my children are under real danger and the world must help protect them.

Al-Fajr: What kind of protection are you talking about? Are you asking that an international force be sent to Jerusalem?
Al-'Alami: Chedli Klibi (the Arab League Secretary General) announced that he will ask the UN Security Council to take up this matter, and since the Arab League is taking up the matter, we are willing to go along with what they decide.

Al-Fajr: What were the consuls' response to your request?
Al-'Alami: They are only representatives of their governments. They are only entitled to take our complaints and convey them to their governments. They cannot give any opinion about them.

Al-Fajr: Have you heard anything since from them?
Al-'Alami: Not yet, but we hope that they will respond positively to us.

Al-Fajr: There was a report in *Al-Quds* newspaper that the U.S. opposed the suggestion of placing an international force in Jerusalem. How do you perceive this stand?
Al-'Alami: America is my enemy before Israel. America is an enemy to the whole Arab world. It has always been so and if the U.S. continues with its postures, the Arabs must take a different stand toward it. The Arabs are capable of many things to stop the anti- Arab stands of the U.S.

Al-Fajr: Do you think the Israeli authorities did enough to control the Jewish extremists?
Al-'Alami: The authorities were protecting them, and they still are. They are colluding to kick the Arabs out of this country. But we will never leave.

Al-Fajr: Did you approach the Israeli authorities to stop the vigilantes?
Al-'Alami: No, I did not. I only sent them a letter of protest. I am not willing to contact them. They are very well informed about what is happening.

PLO Drops Sinyurah, Abu Rahmah From Delegation

TA030858 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Dec 86 p 1

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] The PLO has decided to drop *Al-Fajr* editor Hanna Sinyurah and Gaza lawyer Fayiz Abu Rahmah from a new delegation it is forming for Middle East peace talks, according to reliable Palestinian sources.

The formation of a delegation whose members are not from the territories and who are openly affiliated with the PLO reflects concern that Palestinians from the territories could take political positions independent of the PLO, the sources said. Recent statements by Sinyurah have reportedly fuelled this concern. Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah were originally listed by the PLO as observers in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks. The delegation reshuffle reflects a hardening of the PLO line, according to the sources.

AL-FAJR Assails Syria for Anti-Palestinian Stand

TA021758 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 28 Nov 86 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "The Lebanese Battles and the Responsibility of the Syrian Regime]

[Text] The Syrian regime is not content with guiding and supporting the "Amal" militias in their destructive war against the entire national Palestinian presence in Lebanon, but is currently inciting the national Lebanese movement against the PLO on one hand, and distorting reality and the events taking place on Lebanon's soil, on the other.

The official Syrian spokesman alleges that the responsibility for the current fighting in Lebanon falls on the "PLO, Israel, and the United States"(?!) and is thus turning the facts upside down in order to hide his face under the heaps of innocent bodies which are scattered around the Palestinian camps and the Lebanese towns and villages.

The Syrian conspiracy in Lebanon has been emerging since 1982, and even before that date. But this conspiracy has become more ferocious since 1984. It is characterized by repeated attempts to control the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon in order to control Palestinian political decisionmaking as a whole. It appears that this conspiracy has assumed new dimensions in confronting the will of the Palestinian factions — including those in Damascus — with regard to complete national unity within the framework of the PLO and its legitimate leadership.

Why does the Syrian regime insist on striking out against this will? And why does it pursue its nihilist policy in Lebanon, by means of factional fragmentation and by dissolving the national Lebanese movement?

What the Syrian regime considers an Israeli-U.S. connection in the current war in Lebanon is utterly refutable. For this connection basically developed through this very regime and by means of its conspiracies, intrigues, and bloodstained weapons. Does this regime want to tell us finally that Israel and the United States are pleased with the PLO and are now working to support it in this region?!

The logic of the Syrian rulers is brimming with evil, destruction, and madness, and at any rate, reveals the alarming confusion engulfing these rulers to the extent that they can no longer distinguish between friend and foe or learn lessons from any experience or battle. We at least, expected this regime to realize, even at the last moment, that the conspiracy to break the national Palestinian will will not bear fruit because, in essence, this is the will of the entire Arab people and of the human conscience.

We expected the Syrian leaders to grasp the events and experiments of the last 11 years in Lebanon comprising tragedies, massacres, and calamities. We expected Hafiz al-Asad to study the outcome of his mistakes with regard to his relations with Iran, the United States, and Western European countries.

We also expected him to comprehend, during these very days, the Soviet Union's signal to him — the Soviet Union which is receiving the Palestinian factions with open arms in Moscow so as to bolster and consolidate their decision to unite and stick together. However, our legitimate expectations are one thing, and the entire Syrian regime is another.

ALGERIA

President Receives GDR Party Delegation

LD022344 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Today at the presidency, Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN secretary general, received Mr Gerhard Mueller, member of the Politburo [title as heard] of the SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] Central Committee and first secretary of the SED Erfurt area of the GDR.

The meeting was attended by Brother Larbi Belkheir, cabinet director at the presidency, and Brother Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee in charge of external relations.

The delegation headed by Mr Mueller was also received by Mr Rabih Bitat, member of the Political Bureau and speaker of the National People's Assembly, and by Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee.

Joint Commission Meeting With Bulgaria Begins

LD021153 Algiers APS in English 1057 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Algiers, 02 Dec 86 (APS) — The works of the 16th session of the Algerian-Bulgarian joint commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation started here yesterday under the co-chairmanship of Mohamed Rouighi, C.C member, minister of water resources, environment and forestries and Khristo Khristov, minister of commerce. Opening the session Mr. Rouighi pointed out that the holding of these traditional sittings are an important event for taking stock of the progress achieved and rising above the problems to further develop economic relations between the two countries.

The Bulgarian commerce minister focused on the considerable work achieved within the context of this joint commission. He noted however that there are still untapped potentialities. It would be our main concern after this session, he added.

The two ministers agreed that the expanding of Algerian-Bulgarian cooperation to other sectors is possible in view of the examplary political relations between the two countries.

Benamar Receives Khristov

LD021152 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Algiers 2 Dec (APS) — Yesterday, Commerce Minister Mostefa Benamar received at the headquarters of his ministry Bulgarian Trade Minister Khristo Iliev Khristov.

The two sides to discussed bilateral trade relations. The two sides also expressed their will to expand and boost exchange to serve their common bilateral interests.

Bendjedid Receives Khristov

LD022308 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid has received Bulgarian Minister of Trade Khristo Khristov who handed him a message from Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov. [passage omitted]

The Bulgarian minister was also received by Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the [FLN] Political Bureau and prime minister, and by Finance Minister Abdelaziz Khellef. [passage omitted]

LIBYA

'Masses' Celebrate Great Jamahiriyah Day

LD030025 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The masses of the basic peoples congresses today celebrated the Day of the Great Jamahiriyah in the International Year for Peace. Our correspondent has sent us the following dispatch

The Producers General Congress today organized a great march for peace which went to the UN building in Tripoli. The masses of the great peace march declared their defiance of the arrogance of the crazy power which opposes peace in the world and which is led by Israel's rabid dog and the pillars of his administration who are the enemies of freedom and peace. In the speech delivered on this occasion, the masses praised the resolution of the international community that condemned the failed barbarous U.S.-NATO aggression against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and that affirmed the right of the Libyan Arab people to claim compensation for the material and moral losses that resulted from that brutal aggression.

The speech expressed the Libyan Arab people's praise for the fraternal and friendly countries that voted for the condemnation resolution, which exposed the shameful practices against humanity and against the international peace march. The masses stressed their commitment to the maker of African peace, the one who triggered the Great 1 September Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. They stressed the need to continue this march toward international peace, and to support positively all the successful peace projects, from the resolution to remove all the military bases and evict the remnants of the Italian invaders, to toppling all the symbols of reaction and the symbols of the eras of treason and [word indistinct].

In their speech, the masses of the march called on the peoples of the world to follow the examples that emerged on the Arab land in Libya, and according to which the Libyan Arab people became the ruler and the master, because he established the first jamahiriyah in history, in which the people took over the authority, wealth, and arms.

The masses of the march hailed the brave stand by the invincible armed Libyan Arab people in the face of aggression by Israel's

rabid dog. They downed his aircraft in the sea and forced the aggressors to run away.

The masses of the peace march stressed that they will continue their march for peace and will continue to cooperate with all peoples in supporting the international peace march.

On this occasion, the masses of the march issued a statement in which they stressed that the Great 1 September Revolution is an Islamic revolution and a revolution for peace, which rejects (?subjugation), the bonds of slavery, and the pillars of exploitation, and that it stems [words indistinct] and the establishment of strong relations between [words indistinct] until the establishment of the jamahiriyah regime everywhere as a final solution for the problems of man, and until the establishment of a new international regime in which all men are equal in opportunity, rights, and duties. The statement added that such a regime is a regime of final freedom from all tools of injustice, exploitation, and [word indistinct].

The statement stressed that the Great 1 September Revolution, the revolution of man everywhere, has given its evidence and presented its tangible efforts to construct a wall of international peace. It has freed the Libyan Arab man, politically, economically, and socially; it has put an end to foreign military bases; it has expelled the remnants of Italian invaders; and it has raised the identity of the Libyan Arab people within pan-Arabism through its concept of a state of comprehensive unity in response to the realities of an era that does not accept the weak among its ranks.

The statement added that the Great 1 September Revolution has presented a practical example for the establishment of a jamahiri society through the civilized premise of the new man who has authority, wealth, and arms, and it presented the Third International Theory with all its concepts as a result of the experiences of mankind. It is the guide to the end of chronic human problems.

The statement stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah has raised, is still raising, and will keep raising the banners of defiance in the face of the enemies of freedom and peace, and it has succeeded in achieving a material and moral victory over the camp of evil, represented by U.S. imperialism, the highest level of the crusading West European colonialism. The direct conflict with the evil imperialist camp reached its peak during the failed barbarous U.S.-NATO aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah on the direct orders of Israel's rabid dog, Reagan. The statement stressed that as the conflict has reached its peak, there is no alternative to dividing the world into two opposing camps: a camp for good and peace, with us as its vanguard, and a camp for evil. The statement called on the peoples of the Third World to take the initiative in that direction.

The statement addressed its thanks and gratitude to the members of the UN General Assembly who voted for the international community's condemnation of the failed barbarous U.S.-NATO aggression against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah because they have taken the side of right, justice, and peace.

The statement stressed its support for everything that serves the aims of man in spreading true peace, which is based on justice, equality, and ending slavery and exploitation.

The first lesson in all the educational institutions in the Great Jamahiriyah today was dedicated to the subject of international peace.

Algerian Heavy Industries Minister Ends Visit

LD022023 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Dec (JANA) — Brother Lakhdar Bayou, secretary general of the Algerian Ministry of Heavy Industries, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli at noon today after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah lasting several days.

At Tripoli international airport, Brother Lakhdar made a statement to JANA's correspondent in which he stressed that this visit was agreed to after the visit to Algeria by staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud.

He said four projects were discussed: the aluminum project, the diesel motors project, the refrigerated boxes project, and the automobile project. We concentrated on these projects, he said, which will benefit the two fraternal countries, as a first step toward building an industrial bulwark for the greater Arab homeland.

At the end of his statement Brother Lakhdar expressed his and the delegation's gratitude for the hospitality which the Algerian delegation received during its presence in the Great Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

Protest in Ceuta, Communique from Mellila

LD021430 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Madrid, Dec 2 (MAP) — Some six thousand Moslems gathered Saturday in front of the mosque of the Moroccan northern town of Ceuta still under Spanish rule to protest the juridical situation in which they may find themselves after the proposal of the Spanish Government made during the latest meeting of the joint commission.

The government offer consists in issuing a one year temporary card to any Moslem who might apply for Spanish citizenship. Those who do not wish to apply for the Spanish citizenship would be granted a ten year renewable card.

During the gathering Mohamed Ali, leader of the Sebta Moslem Association termed these proposals "juridical trifles". He affirmed that president of the Moslem community of Ceuta Ahmed Soubaire attempted last Saturday to deceive the town's Moslems when he said the Spanish Government proposal to issues identity cards to Moslems has no relation with the law on aliens.

He announced during the meeting the holding of a demonstration as soon as he gets an authorisation. The demonstration will gather all the Ceuta inhabitants, he added.

"We have suffered marginalization, racism and contempt during forty years of dictatorship. But I am sure, the Moslems, men, women and children included, are coming aware of their legitimate rights, progressively", he added.

There are in Ceuta two other Moslem associations in addition to that headed by Mohamed Ali, namely the newly created "Moslem Group" headed by Hassan Mohamed Yassin, and "The Moslem Community of Sebta" headed by Ahmed Soubaire.

A Feninine [as received] cell, affiliated to the Moslem community of Ceuta was created Saturday during a meeting at the association's headquarters.

In a press release circulated Saturday, the leader of the Moslem community of Mellila Ammar Duduh declared that "the Moslem people of Mellila is the legitimate owner of its land and fate. It accepts and encourages cohabitation with any other democratic community, but it does not allow and willl not allow to be regarded as a foreigner on its own land".

The communique added that the equality of rights of all those who live in Mellila "is an issue that cannot be negotiated" and henceforth "the Mellila citizen of Moroccan origin requests to be granted all civic rights, without exception".

Among these rights, the Moslem community demands the right to vote and rejects the temporary identity card which has been proposed to its members by the Spanish administration.

In Madrid, a spokesman of the Popular Coalition (opposition), Miguel Herrero de Minon Monday presented an urgent proposal to "force" a debate on the situation in Mellila, the Spanish news agency "EFE" reported.

The popular coalition on the same occasion addressed to the congress board a note in which it demands the inclusion of the proposal on the agenda of the plenary session of next Wednesday.

For the coalition's spokesman, "the growing deterioration of coexistence in Mellila is a fact which gets no clear and valid response on the part of the Spanish Government".

He also sees that the government should put an end to "the tentative applying of the legislation on aliens" to clarify "the relations with the Moslem community".

Belgian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

LD021612 Rabat MAP in English 1201 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Rabat, Dec 2 (MAP) — Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans Monday wound up an official visit to Morocco by the conclusion of a maritime cooperation agreement with Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation Andellatif Filali.

At a press conference Monday evening in Rabat, Tindemans reviewed questions raised during talks with Moroccan officials, including the one-hour Royal Audience King Hassan II granted him Monday afternoon. "The sovereign's conception of issues shaking the world strongly impressed me," he said.

Concerning his talks with Mr Fiflali, the Belgian foreign minister said they covered the future of relations between Morocco and the European community in light of the upcoming Belgian chairmanship of the EEC's Ministers Council, Belgian efforts to defend and safeguard Morocco's interests, the situation of Moroccan workers and students in Belgium, the Sahara question, the Middle East crisis and East-West relations.

Bilateral relations, added Tindemans, were discussed at length, mainly questions relating to staff and vocational training, cultural cooperation and economic and financial cooperation in light of the "remarkable" development Morocco had known in this area.

Mr Tindemans, who had arrived here on Friday, also conferred with Premier Azzeddine Laraki and Speaker of the House of Representatives Ahmed Osman.

SUDAN

Sudan Supports Arab Foreign Ministers Meeting

JN021544 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1449 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Dec (SUNA) — Sudan supports the PLO's call for an Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

This was announced here today by Abu Raja'i, PLO representative in Khartoum, after meeting with Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Abu Raja'i praised Sudan's honorable stands on the Palestinian revolution and the crises facing the Palestinian people. He pointed out that he and the minister discussed relations between the Sudanese and Palestinian peoples, in addition to the war being waged against the Palestinian camps.

Abu Raja'i indicated that new parties — starting with the Zionist entity and ending with the Shi'ite Amal movement — are taking part in this war with the aim of liquidating these camps and deporting their inhabitants from the Zionist entity's security areas.

Information Protocol Signed With Egypt

NC022154 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 2 Dec (MENA) — [Egyptian] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information Muhammad Tawfiq signed a protocol today on bilateral cooperation in the field of information. The signing took place during the final session of talks in Khartoum. This protocol will enhance Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation. It confirms the firm and unchanging characteristics of the special and distinguished relations between the two countries.

This cooperation protocol covers all aspects of work relating to radio, television, and domestic and foreign information. Khartoum's daily programming will be resumed via satellite. There will also be an exchange of television programs between the two

countries. This new stage of information cooperation includes the promotion of joint radio and television projects, as well as an exchange of programs that will reflect the various activities of the two countries in an effort to deepen mutual understanding. [passage omitted]

Ugandan Says Differences With Sudan Solved

JN021607 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Nairobi, 2 Dec (SUNA) — Ibrahim Mukiibi, foreign minister of fraternal Uganda, has announced that all his country's differences with Sudan have been completely solved. In a statement broadcast by Ugandan radio this morning, Mukiibi said that the Khartoum government had no knowledge of what happened in the past.

Mukiibi said that his country had reached an absolute understanding with Sudan with regard to the Ugandan rebels who fled to southern Sudan, where they engaged on sabotage acts against their country.

The Ugandan Government accused the Sudanese Government last August of assisting the supporters of former President Tito Okello who fled to southern Sudan.

Foreign Minister Receives UN Relief Official

JN021552 Khartoum, SUNA in Arabic 1417 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Dec (SUNA) — Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Shah Wali, official in charge of the UN emergency operations bureau in Sudan, who affirmed that the United Nations will continue to aid Sudan in the fields of relief and development.

Wali said that the meeting dealt with the aid to be provided by the emergency bureau and its contribution to coordinating relief operations in Sudan in cooperation with the relief agency.

Al-Hindi expressed Sudan's thanks for the United Nations' role and praised its relief aid.

Rebels Kill 14 Government Troops in Abyei Area

EA031003 (clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Bari 1120 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Abyei — SPLA fighters in Abyei area under the overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Awet Akout assisted by Captain Natale Majok shot and killed many enemy soldiers only 4 miles outside Abyei town; 14 enemy soldiers were killed on the spot and many others were seriously wounded. The SPLA captured six guns, including five Kalashnikovs and one G-3, from the enemy. The enemy soldiers were forced to retreat to Abyei. [passage omitted]

Anya Nya II on Constitutional Conference

JN021110 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, Dec, 2 (SUNA) — Anya Nya -2- movement has called the Sudanese Government to commence immediately the constitutional conference to discuss various national issues. The movement has also rejected conformation of the peace Islamic-Coptic committee headed by the member of Supreme Council Idris al-Banna, the daily *Al-Siyasah* reported today.

Anya Nya -2- movement's Secretary General Assistant for Information and Arab Countries Affairs Lieutenant Colonel (Mohamed Shoul) told the paper that a big number of Garang's movement (SPLA) have the intention of giving up to the People's Forces, but, he said, they adopt the policy of wait and see due to the intention of the peace committee for negotiation with SPLA. He called the government to give more support to the people's forces and Anya Nya movement in order to strengthen their military movements in southern Sudan.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Interviewed by Kuwaiti Paper

JN021315 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 30 Nov 86 p 15

[Interview with Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Question] Do you believe that the relations of friendship that you are establishing with French political quarters are likely to persuade France to increase its aid to Tunisia to assist it in overcoming the stifling economic crisis it is now facing?

[Mabrouk] I am fully convinced of this. It is true we have good relations with the French political circles in general. We are also establishing good relations with the French media. This is a card which Tunisia will spare no effort in using to insure the success of its current efforts to revive the country's economy. The fact is France is now extending important and multifaceted assistance to us.

[Question] Some people believe that Tunisia is disappointed by its relations with the other Arab countries, and that it is anxious to gradually get closer to the Western world. Is that true?

[Mabrouk] Tunisia is an integral part of the Arab World, and it cannot feel disappointed with itself. It has always sought to strengthen its relations with the Arab brothers. It is essential that Tunisia not isolate itself but establish open bridges with the outside world, particularly the Western world on various political, economic, and cultural levels. However, Tunisia will not under any circumstances allow its relations with the West to undermine its Arab and Muslim affiliations.

[Question] As Tunisian ambassador to France you played a positive role in the negotiations to end the dispute between Tunisia and Libya. How far did the negotiations go?

[Mubrouk] They have borne fruit. The part of the negotiations held in Paris concentrated on the issue of the Tunisian airline company's assets frozen by Libya following the severence of relations between the two countries. These assets are estimated at 90 million francs.

As a result of the Paris negotiations a solution was found to the problem: The Libyan authorities pledged to pay part of the assets, while it was agreed that the other part will be paid later. Now we are trying to find solutions to the other Tunisian- Libyan differences. I am optimistic, indeed I am confident, that the two friendly peoples will meet again on the path of brotherhood and friendship in the near future.

[Question] Will relations between the two countries be normalized in the near future?

[Mabrouk] That basically depends on the desire of the Libyan Government and the speed with which outstanding disputes between the two countries are resolved.

[Question] It appears that the attempt to bring the Arab Maghreb countries closer to each other has now become one of the tenets of the new Tunisian diplomacy. If so, do you believe that such rapprochement will bear fruit in the short and medium term?

[Mabrouk] Human, historic, and economic necessity require the formation of Maghreb identity capable of responding to the aspirations of Maghreb youth and providing adequate guarantees for resolving the economic problems that exist in the Arab world today. I believe it is now difficult to crystallize such an identity politically for this requires constant work by many generations. As for the strengthening of economic and cultural relations among the Maghreb countries so as to achieve integration, this is a basic step that must be made as soon as possible. I believe that such a step can be made only under the canopy of solidarity among the peoples of the Arab Maghreb and with coordination among the leaders of the Maghreb countries. That is one of the current preoccupations of Tunisian diplomacy.

[Question] Many observers believe that Tunisia will be able to solve its problems only through adopting a democratic policy on all levels. To what extent do you think that the democratic line is an established fact in Tunisia?

[Mabrouk] Adherence to democratic principles is one of the characteristics of the Tunisians wherever they are. It suffices to note that President Habib Bourguiba dedicated his life to serving freedom in the country. However, we are obliged as, are many countries, to be more careful toward those who exploit this freedom to harm the higher interests of the homeland.

[Question] Many Tunisian politicians living in Europe, particularly in France, have noted through various channels, including the press, their desire to return to Tunisia. Can they return home without any measures being taken against them by the ruling authorities?

[Mabrouk] Every Tunisian citizen living abroad has the right to return home. But a Tunisian cannot claim this right if he committed a serious mistake against his homeland. Therefore, the political authority cannot give him guarantees in advance as long as the judicial authority has not yet considered his case. I believe that whoever is satisfied with his conduct toward his homeland should not fear returning home. Those who misbehaved toward Tunisia, will have to shoulder their responsibility.

[Question] Former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali said in an exclusive statement with *Le Monde* recently that you always took the initiative to attack him, that you were behind the plot that toppled him from power and that you did so to take his position. How do you reply to this?

[Mabrouk] I was never a foe of Mohamed Mzali. On the contrary, I had friendly relations with him. I do not regret this relationship. But my duties as foreign minister forced me to answer him after he trampled on Tunisia's dignity through the statements he made to foreign press. I denounced such conduct. But I did not do this out of personal hatred or out of a desire to destroy him.

Mzali is undoubtedly mistaken when he says that I "destroyed" him in order to take his position. I would like to sieze this opportunity to stress officially that I did not consider myself as the possible successor of Mzali or anyone else in the pyramid of power. The whole matter is that I held the Foreign Ministry portfolio at the request of President Habib Bourguiba. I will do my utmost to live up to his expectations. I would like to stress that I am not in the list of candidates for the post of prime minister or successor to Bourguiba. I will give up the political arena absolutely when President Habib Bourguiba passes away. I hope that this day will be very far away. After that I will not play any political role in the government or in any political body of the state. I will be satisfied with being an ordinary citizen. I stress officially that I do not have any further political ambitions.

Sfar Receives Moroccan Interior Minister

LD022047 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Rachid Sfar received today at noon Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri, who is attending the 5th meeting of the Arab interior ministers' council in Tunis.

The meeting dealt with the existing relations of friendship and cooperation in all spheres between the two countries. The two sides have stressed their determination to bolster such relations and to establish them in a way that would contribute to the edifice of the Great Arab Maghreb in accordance with the instructions of both President Habib Bourguiba and King Hassan II.

The meeting was held in the presence of Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk and Moroccan Ambassador to Tunis Abbas Fassi.

Former Prime Minister's Family Reported Tortured

LD022049 Paris International Service in French
1245 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] In Tunisia, several members of former prime minister Mohamed Mzali's family are reported to have been tortured.

This was affirmed by their Paris lawyer Jean-Pierre Lusson after his return from Tunis where he was present at their trial. According to him, the former prime minister's two sons, Rafik and Hatem Mzali, had been suspended by their ankles. Mohamed Mzali's brother-in-law and two other people are reported to have suffered the same torture, according to Lusson who complained about the trial procedures.

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario Attacks Romanian Ship Arming Morocco

AU031058 Paris AFP in English 1041 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, Dec 3 (AFP) — The Polisario Front guerrilla movement said Wednesday its forces had attacked a Romanian trawler off the coast of Western Sahara, and accused Bucharest of supplying arms to Morocco.

The attack last month, claimed by the Polisario's representative in France Mohamed Sidati, was the first by the movement on interests of an eastern European country.

Wednesday's statement was also the first allegation by the Polisario that a country of the Soviet bloc, which is generally supportive of the guerrillas in their war against Morocco, had been delivering arms to Rabat.

The previously unreported incident was seen by observers as a warning to Bucharest by the Polisario. The delay in publicising it was interpreted as a sign of embarrassment on both sides.

Informed sources said the Romanian trawler had been sunk after it was fired on last November 8. Three members of the crew, taken off by another boat, were injured and hospitalised in Nouadibhou, Mauritania.

The trawlers belonged to a joint Romanian-Mauritanian fishing enterprise.

The Polisario claims the waters, land and air space of Western Sahara belong to the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic it has proclaimed. It says they are a war zone and boats, vehicles or aircraft entering are liable to be attacked.

ETHIOPIA

GDR Official Makes Statement at End of Visit

EA022314 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade (Helmut Mehlmann) said today that he is very impressed by the great effort being made by peasant associations, established at various levels under the leadership of the WPE, to increase production. Comrade (Helmut Mehlmann), Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] Central Committee member and head of the party's agricultural research department, said this in a statement he gave prior to his departure at the end of a 1-week visit to revolutionary Ethiopia.

Comrade (Mehlmann) said that during his stay in the country he has been that members of peasant associations established at various levels are making unreserved efforts in order to strengthen the agricultural sector of the economy and that the leadership and support given by party committees in their respective areas have created favorable conditions for the success of these efforts. He disclosed that he held useful discussions on further strengthening the existing relations between the WPE and SED.

Cormade (Helmut Mehlmann) was seen off at Bole International Airport by WPE Central Committee Member Comrade (Abdul Aziz Yusuf).

Mengistu Greets PDRY, Lao Counterparts

EA031015 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, today sent a congratulatory message on the occasion of the PDRY's 59th anniversary of independence.

In his message to the leader of PDRY, Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, on behalf of the WPE Central Committee, people and government of revolutionary Ethiopia and on his own behalf, our comrade revolutionary leader expressed his confidence that the existing friendly relations between the two countries would be further strengthened, and wished peace and prosperity to the friendly people of Yemen and good health to comrade Abu Bakr al-'Attas.

In another development, Mengistu Haile Mariam today sent a congratulatory message to the party, people and government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of that country's 11th national day, to be celebrated tomorrow. In his message to Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on behalf of the WPE Central Committee, people and government of revolutionary Ethiopia and on his own behalf, our comrade revolutionary leader expressed his confidence that the country's people would achieve additional victories in their efforts to build a strong socialist country, through [words indistinct].

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam affirmed that the existing relations between the two countries, based on proletarian internationalism, would be further strengthened in the future for the benefit of the two countries and progressive forces of the world and wished Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit good health and progress and prosperity to the brotherly people of Laos.

Reportage on Addis Ababa Trade Meeting

Kaunda, Museveni, Bagaza Arrive

EA022230 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Six heads of states and government arrived in Addis Ababa today to attend the fifth meeting of east and southern Africa Preferential Trade Area [PTA] leaders due to open tomorrow at Africa Hall. [passage omitted]

Zambian leader President Kenneth Kaunda, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, and President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza of Burundi have also arrived. [passage omitted]

Zimbabwe's Mugabe Arrives

MB022023 Harare Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, is the first head of state [as heard] to arrive in the Ethiopian capital to attend the (?first) meeting of the Preferential Trade Area Authority which begins tomorrow.

Comrade Mugabe was met at the [words indistinct] international airport by the Ethiopian head of state, Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, and three high officials of the ruling (?Marxist) party. Also at the airport to welcome was the minister of lands, Comrade Richard Hove, and the ambassador to Ethiopia, Comrade Tichaona Jokonya, and the Preferential Trade Area executive secretary, Comrade Baxter Nomvete.

Comrade Mugabe is accompanied by the minister of foreign affairs, Dr Witness Mangwende, and the deputy minister of transport, Comrade Amina Hughes.

KENYA

President Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Message on Chad

EA030734 Nairobi KNA in English 1240 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Nairobi, 2 Dec — President Daniel Arap Moi today at State House, Nairobi, received a special message from Libyan Leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, on Chad. The message was delivered by the Libyan minister for public service, Mr Muhammad al-Mabruk. He was accompanied by the ambassador of Libya in Ethiopia, Mr Khalifa Bazelya, and the Libyan charge d'affaires, Mr Likyan. The minister for foreign affairs,

Mr Elijah Mwangale, and the permanent secretary, Mr Bethwel Kiplagat, were also present.

SOMALIA

Foreign Affairs Official Returns From USSR Visit

EA030944 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The Somali Democratic Republic minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Mohamed Ali Hamud, and his delegation returned to the country today at the end of their visit to the Soviet Union. The minister of state told reporters that during his visit he held talks with Soviet leaders on bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields. The two sides also exchanged views on international issues, including the Horn of Africa situation.

Challe Mohamed Ali Hamud added that the consultations took place in a constructive atmosphere and that he had invited the Soviet deputy minister for foreign affairs to visit Somalia and that the invitation had been accepted. The delegation was received at the airport by officials from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Radio Halgan: Siad Receives Aid Through 'Lies'

EA012045 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] The so-called minister, Italy's deputy foreign minister Francesco Forte, who is also responsible for so-called emergency aid to developing countries, was recently in Mogadishu where he met Dictator General Mohamed Siad Barre and the man responsible for the regime's foreign affairs. He was ostensibly there to help people living in so-called refugee camps or victims of natural disasters, whose wealth and property Siad has destroyed and in whose name he begs from the international community. He also uses the assistance given to them as a political weapon to suppress the people opposing his fascist rule.

He has made a habit of creating nonexistent organizations and agencies like the newly formed Somali Orphan Society which placed patients in hospitals when the American Muslim Organization delegation visited. Dictator Siad Barre has made a habit of making baseless claims. He used to deny his sole responsibility for the 1977 war. He did not feel ashamed of lying to the OAU members and the United Nations. He also lied about the aid given to the victims of the 1974 famine.

Reports add that it is impossible for him to get assistance from the international community and organizations except through lies.

TANZANIA

Executive Committee Endorses Economic Measures

EA022157 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Dar es Salaam — The [party] National Executive Committee [NEC] has praised President Ali Hassan Mwinyi's government for the measures taken in the last 12 months to revamp the national economy and to promote goodneighborliness.

In an official statement, the NEC expressed satisfaction with the measures taken by President Mwinyi to reorganize the economy, adding that the people now appreciate the measures. It noted that there are positive signs of recovery. The statement said that both food and cash crop production have increased, although the situation in the international market is still poor, particularly with regard to essential crops.

The NEC said that the perennial shortage of foreign exchange has continued, although it has been solved to a certain extent after the government reached agreement on several issues with the IMF.

On foreign policy, the NEC said President Mwinyi and his government have taken measures to promote goodneighborliness, participate in OAU affairs, and defend international peace.

The NEC said the achievements of the government in the second phase are an inspiration to the people. [passage omitted]

BENIN

GDR Party Delegation Concludes Visit 1 Dec

AB021102 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] A delegation of the GDR Socialist Unity Party left Cotonou early this afternoon. It began a working and friendly visit to our country a week ago. At the VIP lounge of Cotonou International Airport the leader of the delegation, Johannes Chemnitzer, told pressmen that he was very satisfied with the visit.

[Begin Chemnitzer recording in German followed by French translation] First of all I would like to take this opportunity to express our warmest thanks for the excellent hospitality we received. Conditions were very favorable for us to learn about the life of your people and country. We are very happy for the opportunity to meet Beninese President Kerekou, to whom we conveyed the warm regards of Comrade Erich Honecker, secretary general of our Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State.

We are returning home enriched by all our talks and experiences here. Our comrades informed us during our visit about the second ordinary congress of your party and explained the activities of the party in the [words indistinct]. During this historic visit, we learned about your country's history and culture. We are certain that your people, under the guidance of the Beninese People's Revolutionary Party, will have a very happy future. We noted the similarity in the views of our two parties in the ideological and political spheres. We will make every effort to strengthen cooperation between our two parties. Our two parties will jointly contribute to efforts to promote disarmament and detente on a world scale.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the friendly Beninese people happiness and good health. [end recording]

GHANA

Official Receives Visiting GDR Party Delegation

AB022052 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 2 Dece 86

[Text] A member of the PNDC, Ebo Tawiah, has said that opportunities exist under the economic recovery program for all friendly countries to participate meaningfully in the Ghanaian economy. Mr Ebo Tawiah stated this during a meeting with a 2-member delegation from the Socialist Unity Party, SED, of the German Democratic Republic at his office at the Castle, Osu. He told the delegation that as much as it is imperative for Ghana and the GDR to strengthen relations, it is equally important for the revolutionary organs of the two countries to collaborate. The PNDC member said cooperation could also involve the working class of the two countries, since there are a lot of experiences to be shared. The leader of the delegation, Mr (Screinistang) said the GDR has a lot of sympathy for Ghana, and it is ever ready to help toward the economic and political development ofithe country. The delegation, which is on a week's visit to the country, was accompanied to the Castle by the GDR ambassador to Ghana, Franz Everhart.

LIBERIA

Sherman Replaces Kpoto as NDPL Chairman

AB021732 Monrovia Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] There has been a surprising new development in Liberia's ruling political party, the National Democratic Party of Liberia [NDPL]. Mr Keikura Kpoto, the man regarded as the voice of the party, has been dropped from the chairmanship of the party. He has been replaced by Ms (Miata) Sherman, a staunch supporter of the NDPL.

No immediate reasons have been given for Mr Kpoto's dismissal from the party's chairmanship, which came during an emergency meeting of the NDPL yesterday. The meeting was attended by the party's standard bearer, Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe. It is widely believed that Mr Kpoto, who led the NDPL to victory in the 1985 October general elections as chairman, may have been relieved of the position amidst growing resentement over his style of leadership.

When contacted by reporters, Mr Kpoto angrily responded and we quote him: Where did you send me that I should brief you? Yesterday Mr Kpoto was quoted by the *Daily Star* newspaper as saying that he had abandoned all other activities, including his farm work in Lofa County, to give the NDPL a vulcanic victory in the ensuing general, municipal, and legislative by-elections, saying: We would give no seat in Monrovia to the opposition.

The NDPL chairman, Ms (Miata) Sherman, has now promised to address hereself to some crucial issues of the party. She has asked partisans of the NDPL to give her their fullest support and cooperation as she undertakes her new assignment. Ms Sherman previously served as chairperson of the women's wing of the NDPL.

Agreements With Romania Signed in Monrovia

AB012222 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Liberia and Romania have signed a series of agreements covering a number of projects identified by the two countries during (?10) days of bilateral and economic talks in Monrovia. The projects were identified in agriculture, mining, transportation, forestry, finance, and planning while appropriate technicians from both countries were urged to undertake studies on a number of others.

Speaking after the signing ceremony at the Commerce Ministry today, the leaders of the Liberian and Romanian delegations, Mrs Mcleod Darpoh and (Constantin Tusanu), expressed satisfaction for the talks and pledged their countries' fullest support for the implementation of the agreements. Mrs Darpoh, who is also Liberia's minister of commerce, transportation, and indus-

try, lauded the leaders of both countries for their interest to improve the living conditions of their respective peoples, and noted that the present discussions between the two countries have proved very successful. Mrs Darpoh assured that as a result of the discussions Liberia could look forward to increase agricultural production in the future. Mrs Darpoh later congratulated members of the Romanian delegation for their patient understanding and cooperation leading to the successful conclusion of the talks.

In response, Mr (Tusanu), who is also councillor at the Ministry of Mines, Oil, and Geology of Romania, praised the Liberian Government for the kind hospitality accorded his delegation since their arrival in the country and pledged his country's support to Liberia's development efforts. Mr (Tusanu) then lauded the friendly ties between Liberia and Romania and said his country will exert every effort to further strengthen these ties in the interest of both governments and peoples.

Meanwhile, the 9-member Romanian trade delegation departs Liberia later today at the end of what everybody has described as a very successful visit to Liberia.

MALI

Foreign Minister Comments on Iran Trip

AB021305 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Excerpt] The Islamic Republic of Iran could help Mali benefit from its experience in agriculture and the fight against desert encroachment. This is one of the conclusions that can be drawn from the official visit the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation has just made to Iran. Mr Modibo Keita, who accepted an invitation from his Iranian counterpart, Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, was accompanied by National Assembly Member El Hadj Sekou Cisse and officials from the Foreign Ministry. Mr Modibo Keita made a statement to Oumar Toure.

[Begin recording] [Keita] During our visit, we held fruitful discussions, and we had the honor to be granted an audience by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to whom we delivered a message from the secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People, General Moussa Traore. We were also received by the speaker of the Iranian Majlis and the prime minister. We also had working sessions with the ministers of foreign affairs, agriculture, and oil and representatives of the Iranian Red Crescent Society. During our stay, we examined ways and means to strengthen bilateral cooperation. It seems that the Islamic Republic of Iran could help Mali benefit from its experience in agricultural development and the fight against desert encroachment. We therefore decided that an Iranian delegation of top-level experts would come to Mali to examine on the spot the best conditions in which Iran could assist our country. We also discussed the possibility of cooperation in the fields of education and health so as to promote primary health care, which is a priority in our country. We also discussed the possibility of setting up effective cooperation in the fields of mineral research, geology, and oil. Since Iran is an oil-producing country, our experts could approach that country to determine the conditions needed for it to supply oil to Mali. I must add that our talks were very fruitful and that our Iranian partners were very understanding and prepared to assist us.

[Toure] Mr Minister, Iran is at war, and you recently visited it. What impressions did Tehran, the capital city, give you?

[Keita] Well you know, by its nature Mali is highly concerned about any hotbed of tension. Mali is therefore worried by the war between Iran and Iraq — two Muslim countries — first of all as an African state that is a member of the Islamic Conference and also of the Nonaligned Movement. We therefore hope that our warring brothers will close that chapter and cooperate on a fraternal basis for the welfare of their respective peoples.

[Toure] Mr Minister, during your visit in Iran, did you discuss with Iranian officials the possibility of a mediation in the war between Iran and Iraq?

[Keita] You know that Mali has traditionally played a mediation role everytime it has been asked to do so, and if that was the desire of one of the warring partners, Mali would not spare any effort. But we have not explicitly determined the conditions of a mediation by our country. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Algerian Minister Meets Traore, Comments

AB012232 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Excerpts] President Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM], this afternoon received Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, who has been visiting our country within the framework of the sixth session of the Algerian-Malian Joint Commission for Cooperation. The talks touched on the exemplary cooperation between our two countries, which is based on the long-standing multifaceted relations between our two brotherly peoples.

In this connection, Dr Taleb Ibrahimi expressed happiness at the willingness and desire of our two parties, the UDPM and the FNL, and our two governments to strengthen our relations in furtherance of the spirit of solidarity. The talks also touched on the situation in Africa and the Arab world and on the need for developping countries to join efforts to reduce the adverse effects of the world economic crisis. [passage omitted]

After the audience, the Algerian minister was interviewed by Oumar Toure:

[Begin recording] [Taleb Ibrahimi] I was in Bamako not long ago. Once again I am here and have just had the honor of being received by President Moussa Traore. Incidentally, I will observe that I often come to Bamako and would like for my counterpart and colleague to reciprocate; I would be very happy to recieve him in Algiers. [Words indistinct] the good relations between Algeria and Mali. This time, my visit falls within a more limited framework since I am here to jointly preside over the sixth session of the Algerian-Malian Joint Commission. This is why our talks will touch more on bilateral than on international questions. I think that in the past few days our respective aides have worked

hard on all the dossiers. This afternoon or tomorrow, my counterpart and friend, Modibo Keita, and I are going to sign the minutes of this sixth session.

According to me, the major points include the issue of the Trans-Saharan Highway. It was a mere topic of discussions some decades ago but it has now become a reality. We are left with only the last portion to be completed.

Another point is the Malian-Algerian border, which we must transform into (?border towns). Malians and Algerians have already prepared plans and we are on the verge of setting up such centers so our border will rather be a passage point than a barrier. We will also examine our trade and cultural relations. When the minutes are published tomorrow morning, you will acquaint yourself with all the points, of which I have just mentioned a few.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the good relations between Algeria and Mali. This is so both at the level of our bilateral relations and on the international front, where Mali and Algeria are always on the same side.

[Toure] Mr Minister, you have just mentioned trade relations. It is evident that the political relations between Algeiers and Bamako are excellent. Will our trade relations be enhanced likewise?

[Taleb Ibrahimi] We are leaving no stone unturned to enhance our trade relations to the same extent. We are not starting from scratch. Something has already been done. But we are not yet satisfied with this, so we must achieve even more. [end recording]

NIGERIA

ANC's Tambo Warns Government of RSA 'Threat'

AB021608 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The president of the African National Congress, ANC, Mr Oliver Tambo, has advised the Federal Government to take seriously the threat by South Africa to attack Nigeria militarily. Mr Tambo told newsmen in Lagos today that Nigeria should be ready to meet such an aggression, because the Botha regime was desperate enough to carry out the threat. He said Nigeria's support for the liberation struggle in southern Africa and the fact that Nigeria has the capacity to make a difference in the situation there exposed her to the South African aggression. The ANC leader cited the death of Mozambican President, Mr Samora Machel, in a plane crash after threats on his life by the racist regime.

Mr Tambo said there was no doubt that Mr Machel was murdered by South Africa because there had been reports from the media more than a week before the plane crash that Pretoria would eliminate him.

He disclosed that there was now reliable information that the South African Government is threatening to assassinate President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. According to the information, the ANC leader is also on the list of prominent leaders to be eliminated. Mr Tambo said the ANC takes these threats seriously and will advise others to do the same.

On the recent withdrawal of some multinational companies from South Africa, the ANC president said that their actions could only have a [word indistinct] effect on the racist economy if they were concentrated within a short period of time. According to him, scattered withdrawals without concerted efforts by the companies concerned can hardly weaken South Africa, just like uncoordinated application of sanctions cannot work. Mr Tambo said he was in Nigeria to renew his earlier request for military and financial assistance from the Federal Government toward the armed struggle.

During his meeting with President Ibrahim Babangida earlier in the day, the ANC leader was assured of Nigeria's continued assistance for the movement to enable it to intensify the liberation war. Mr Tambo told President Babangida that the morale of freedom fighters in the racist enclave is high despite increased detentions and arrests. He said that the emergency laws being enforced by the Botha regime [words indistinct] of the struggle.

Mr Tambo also briefed President Babangida on the situation in Mozambique, which he described as delicate. He said that President Chissano of Mozambique needed more support from Africa and other friendly nations to overcome the South African-backed rebel group. Mr Tambo leaves Lagos today after a 3-day official visit to Nigeria.

TOGO

Financial Agreements Signed With France

AB012125 Lome Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Four financial agreements and an additional clause totalling 595 million CFA francs were signed today in Lome between our country and France. The documents were signed for Togo by Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Atsou Koffi Amegah and for France by French Ambassador to Togo Georges-Marie Chenu. [passage omitted]

ANGOLA

Dos Santos: 'Main Efforts' Concentrated on UNITA

AU021319 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 28 Nov 86 p 2

[Interview given by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and the People's Republic of Angola, to Dezso Pinter, head of a section at *Magyar Hirlap*, in Luanda: "Angola — in the Midst of Battle" — date not given; first paragraph is newspaper's introduction]

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and the People's Republic of Angola [PRA], gave an interview in Luanda to a head of a section at *Magyar Hirlap*, who has been reporting from the Angolan capital on the second session of the joint Hungarian-Angolan Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technological cooperation.

[Pinter] What difficulties must be faced by the PRA to safeguard and increase its security? What tendency has become apparent in the battle against external threats and domestic counterrevolutionary forces?

[Santos] The PRA is a victim of the undeclared war of aggression carried out by the regular Armed Forces of the racist Republic of South Africa, the lackeys serving them, and UNITA's [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] gangs. In the interest of safeguarding its territorial inviolability and economic establishments, and maintaining the security of its people, the PRA is improving its economy and its defensive military capability. Our main efforts will concentrate on the armed banditry of the puppet movement financed by Pretoria until we reach a stable political, military, and economic situation. The aim of this movement is to terrorize the population, block economic and social reconstruction, create an atmosphere of anxiety and chaos, and kill the revolution.

Under the leadership of the MPLA-Labor Party, the vanguard of our people will courageously face the difficult situation provoked in our country by racist South Africans. The enemy was given a decisive answer, and we have completely upset the plans and aims of the racists and their lackeys. We have achieved considerable victories, and as a result we have recently reduced to a great extent the activities of the puppet movement in the interior of the country. This success reflects the firm determination of our people to unite in a more organized manner for protecting their achievements.

Parallel to the constant struggle against the armed gangs of UNITA, we make efforts in the economy to increase the production of vital commodities, satisfy the needs of the people, and improve thier living conditions. Due to the offensive war of aggression, which has caused us not only serious financial damage but also great losses in human lives, we were, unfortunately, unable to fulfill our economic program completely and at the stipulated date. A large number of people have died, have become war invalids, or have escaped from their homes. In addition, we must mobilize a lot of cadres to support the priority aims of national defense. The military and economic destabilization in our country is the work of external forces who use UNITA's gangs as their puppets and tools. In reality, these armed gangs are nothing else but the extended arms of the South African regular forces, because these puppets are not independent and would not be able to wage a war without vital help from the racist Republic of South Africa. Our people crushed the armed gangs of UNITA who were in the past united with the colonizers of Portugal. Their activity had practically ceased months before we declared our independence. They were revived by the racist regime, and they have been used ever since as an extension of its regular forces for destabilizing Angola and attacking SWAPO forces or Namibian refugees.

This is why we declared that the so-called Angolan issue is not an internal problem of Angola, but a problem created by South Africa and resulting from the aggressive and fascist nature of the apartheid regime.

Honest Initiatives [subhead]

[Pinter] What role can be assumed by the PRA in the just struggle for a lasting peace in the southern part of the African Continent?

[Dos Santos] In our view, a lasting and just peace can only come about in the southern part of Africa if the apartheid system is abolished, because this is the only reason for the war in the region.

At the same time, our view is that if Namibia gained independence according to the UN Security Council resolution 435/78, it would contribute to lessening the political tension of this region of our continent, and to finding a comprehensive and peaceful solution to the regional problems of southern Africa.

Due to this principle, the Angolan Government has made several honest and constructive proposals for creating an atmosphere of confidence among the sides concerned with the conflicts of the southern Africa region and with attaining peace, a deeply desired goal.

As is well-known, the racist South African regime has been trying to justify the constant and illegal occupation of Namibia with the presence of Cuban internationalist units in Angola. This reasoning is part of the delaying tactics of the racist Republic of South Africa. In fact, the regime shows no signs of considering a political settlement of the Namibia issue. We have tried to be most flexible and submitted proposals to the UN secretary general on negotiation and, of course, considering the basic interests of Angola as a sovereign state — we promised a phased withdrawal of the Cuban troops from southern Angola within 36 months.

Unfortunately, these initiatives of the Angolan Government were inadequately received by the government of the racist Republic of South Africa, which has continued its aggressions against the PRA from the territory of occupied Namibia. On the other hand, we have witnessed a growing hostility of the Government of the United States of America toward our country, and what is more, it decided to provide significant military and financial support to the UNITA puppets. In spite of this, we have renewed our diplomatic efforts to find more suitable ways for solving the

urgent problems of southern Africa by just, honest, and peaceful means.

Austerity Measures [subhead]

[Pinter] What are the most important tasks in the Angolan economy which can be fulfilled in the present difficult situation?

[Santos] Recently, the general crisis in the world economy considerably affected our economy, and this has been further increased by the sharp drop in oil prices. This has caused a decrease in our foreign exchange from the commodity that is our main source of income.

In order to solve the difficult situation as soon as possible, the leaders of our party have set an urgent task for the present: the introduction of austerity measures. This includes banning unnecessary expenses, creating conditions for higher revenues by increasing production of new goods and their diversification, and by developing agriculture.

In this respect we decided that it is a priority to develop agriculture, animal husbandry, the food industry, and the sectors guaranteeing the operation of bodies in national defense and domestic safety, and to increase food production. This refers to creating conditions that will enable a steady trade, the reconstruction of infrastructures necessary for undisturbed production, and to an improvement in public health and education.

On the other hand, regarding the difficulties resulting from the drastic drop in our hard currency reserves, we have taken various steps to reschedule our foreign debts.

Friendship and Cooperation [subhead]

[Pinter] How do you see the development of Hungarian-Angolan relations?

[Dos Santos] The friendship and cooperation between our country and the Hungarian People's Republic had developed a long time ago, even before the declaration of our independence on 11 November 1975. The roots of these go back to the time of our war of independence, and they grew stronger ever since for the benefit of our peoples, our parties, and our governments.

We may say that our cooperation with Hungary has considerably increased and contributed to the process of national reconstruction.

At the same time we think that there are other untapped resources which would create an opportunity for increasing the mutually advantageous cooperation. This has also been revealed in Luanda, at the recently held session of the joint Hungarian-Angolan Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technological cooperation. The participants of the joint commission were given the tasks of exploring and realizing these resources, and I am sure that they will endeavor to successfully accomplish their tasks.

MPLA Issues Statement on Anniversary

MB021610 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Statement issued by the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its foundation and the 9th anniversary of its constitution as a labor party in Luanda on 1 December]

[Excerpts] The Angolan people and the MPLA-Labor Party militants will celebrate yet another anniversary of the foundation of the MPLA and its constitution as a party on 10 December. [passage omitted]

Since its constitution on 10 December 1977, the MPLA-Labor Party has sought to create conditions permitting revolutionary transformations related to our reality of life, which is the People's democratic revolution. The MPLA-Labor Party represents the working and peasant classes' most legitimate interests and it exerts a democratic and revolutionary dictatorship in order to neutralize internal and external reactionary actions — in the context of heightening the class struggle — and consistently pursue a policy of national unity based on the alliance of social classes and layers which are interested in the triumph of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Regarding Angola's defensive capabilities, the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau proudly recognizes that our armed forces have selflessly and [words indistinct] fulfilled the sacred duty of defending our fatherland, (?thus thwarting) the tactical and strategic objectives of the South African invaders and their lackeys who have suffered considerable defeats.

Angolan people, comrades, and compatriots: The MPLA-Labor Party, as the class party, represents the workers and peasants' most legitimate interests. We have a duty to lead the struggle for national unity. Thus we must fight mercilessly against all threats to the party's and the people's unity by defending the workers' interests.

Defense of national unity also includes the policy of clemency which was decreed and (?successfully) implemented by the MPLA-Labor Party since 1978 in order to allow all Angolans — without exception — to participate with all their knowledge and energy in the national reconstruction of Angola. This policy of clemency should be viewed as a factor promoting the strengthening of national unity as well as harmonizing life in Angolan society. [passage omitted]

Angolan people, comrades, and compatriots: The People's Republic of Angola is a peace-loving country. At the level of its foreign policy, the People's Republic of Angola has sought to observe universally accepted principles, [words indistinct] the strengthening of peace, freedom, independence, and the people's social progress.

In the last few years, the main thrust of our work in foreign policy has centered mainly on the problems affecting southern Africa with the principal objective of securing the withdrawal of the South African forces from southern Angola — where they have been since 1981 — guaranteeing Namibia's independence pro-

cess, contributing together with other countries in the international community for the eradication of the apartheid system and the establishment of a democratic government in South Africa, resulting in the establishment of lasting peace in southern Africa. In this context, the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau reiterates that our party and government's stance has always been clear and in accordance with the spirit, letter, charter, and pertinent resolutions of the United Nations: the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the South African forces occupying a portion of the Angolan territory, the immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 leading to Namibia's true independence, and the cessation of South African aggression against Angola as well as all logistical support for the UNITA armed bandits.

[Words indistinct] the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau is following with deep concern attempts by some Western powers, especially the United States, to promote the Angolan puppets in the international community as interlocutors as a basis for the attainment of peace in southern Africa, while trying to hide their nature as an appendage of the South African regular army. The MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau also rejects in a clear and unequivocal manner all pressures aimed at forcing us to negotiate with the puppets, who are the (?main sources) of destabilization and terrorism against the Angolan Government and people.

As Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said in Malanje recently, on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of national independence, Angola is an independent state which intends to preserve its territorial integrity. All veiled or open attempts in that direction are a waste of time.

The MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau reaffirms that the apartheid regime is the main source of political, economic, and social instability in Southern Africa and believes that the solution for the problems in the region is linked to the abolition of the hideous apartheid regime whose existence is a crime against mankind and an obstacle to Namibia's independence based on UN Security Council Resolution 435/78. The Political Bureau reiterates its support for the heroic struggle which is being waged by the South African and Namibian patriots, led respectively by the ANC and SWAPO. It rejects the U.S. policy of constructive engagement which aims at reforming the apartheid regime through cosmetic changes which do not affect the political and social foundations of that anachronistic system. It also rejects categorically all attempts to link Namibia's independence to elements which are alien to the decolonization process of Namibia whish is illegally occupied by the racist Pretoria regime.

The MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau hereby reaffirms the principles of the foreign policy of the People's Republic of Angola, which are: Nonalignment, respect for sovereignty, noninterference in the internal affairs of other states, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence. The MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau energetically condemns the policy of state terrorism as carried out by international imperialism and belives that only the scrupulous observance of the fundamental principles of contemporary international law in international relations can constitute the basis for the development of harmonious relations between [words indistinct].

The MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau has noted that all the flexibility shown by the People's Republic of Angola toward establishing a platform of understanding among the parties which are really involved in the process leading to peace in southern Africa was deliberately and (?irremediably) ignored both by the South African Government and the Reagan administration, which presented unacceptable arguments in order to break South Africa's diplomatic and economic isolation and impose [words indistinct] which will ensure the survival of the apartheid regime and a bigger involvement by the United States in Angola's internal affairs.

The MPLA-Labor Party is acutely aware of the complexity of the international situation and its repercussions in southern Africa, and it reiterates that the People's Republic of Angola has always shown great willingness to enter constructive dialogue aimed at the peaceful resolution of southern Africa's problems. [passage omitted]

Because of its choice of developing along socialist lines, the People's Republic of Angola is the permanent target of aggression by international imperialism which, through the actions of South Africa — the imperialist bastion in Africa — carries out plans of destabilization aimed at destroying our party and our people's revolution. The constant aggressions against our national territory of which a part is still occupied by the racist Pretoria regime's forces, are also the result of the unconditional support that we give to the liberation struggle of the oppressed Namibian and South African people, in observance of international community's pertinent resolutions in that regard. [passage omitted]

MPLA CC Issues Statement After Session

MB021028 Dakar PANA in French 1530 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Luanda, 1 Dec (ANGOP/PANA) — The MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee has vehemently condemned the racist South African regime and the policy of the Reagan administration toward Nicaragua. This appears in a statement issued at the end of the 18th ordinary session of the Central Committee held in Luanda from 26 to 29 November.

In this statement, the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee expressed its support for the efforts developed by the Contadora Group to find a peaceful and negotiated solution to problems in Central America and reaffirmed its solidarity with the peoples in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America who are still struggling to achieve independence, peace and social progress.

The MPLA has voiced its concern for the failure of the Reykjavik talks between CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The Angolan party has reiterated its unwavering solidarity with the struggle of the Namibian and South African peoples under the leadership of SWAPO and the ANC, respectively. The MPLA has also noted that the increase in terrorist and aggressive actions by Pretoria is aimed at terrorizing the southern Africa peoples.

On the issue of death of Mozambican President Samora Machel, the Central Committee reiterated its high respect for the memory of the distinguished head of state Samora Moises Machel.

The Central Committee also hails the Mozambican people for the manner in which they faced that difficult moment and hailed President Joaquim Alberto Chissano for his election as chairman of the Frelimo Party and presdient of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

UNITA Claims Killing 171 Government Soldiers

AU030751 Paris AFP in English 0403 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Lisbon, Dec 3 (AFP) — The Angolan rebel movement UNITA said Tuesday it had killed 171 government soldiers in operations in four provinces from November 18-28. It said it had attacked supply columns in Zaire, Benguela, Moxico and Malange Provinces. In the Malange attack, the guerrillas destroyed 80,000 litres (16,800 gallons) of fuel. UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) said that in Zaire province to the north-west it had "liberated" 2,000 villagers when it took Beca Monteiro last Friday.

Cubans Retaliate For Attacks with Amputations

MB030849 (Clandestine) KUP in French to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Free Land of Angola (KUP) [no date as received] — At Huambo's hospitals, Cuban Majors Brito and Santoya are amputating the upper and lower limbs of Angolans who could undergo normal treatment. This was revealed to KUP by Sergeant Aurelio Queiros Kaley, former chief of Huambo central hospital's orthopedic department, in the 4th Military region.

The interviewee told KUP that these unnecessary amputations are often carried out when UNITA attacks Cuban units stationed at Huambo. He referred to specific instances, including retaliation for the remote controlled detonation of a vehicle loaded with explosives in the Cuban civilian quarters at Huambo, and for Cubans who were wounded in UNITA's attack on Calenga.

Majors Brito and Santoya have not been able to hide their anger. The frequent amputations they carry out on the FAPLA wounded also show that they hate seeing their Cuban brothers die in Huambo's hospital for the sake of MPLA interests.

Addition to Dos Santos on National Prospects

The following passages were originally omitted from the item headlined "Dos Santos Interviewed on National Prospects" published on page U 1 of the 1 December issue of the Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT. Inclusion of these passages provides the full text of the interview.

Insert the following passage in left column before paragraph one on page U 1.

[Text] [Reporter] What are the powers and responsibilities of the president of the republic within the MPLA and the Angolan Government? Up to what level is the president of the republic responsible for Angola's present policy and situation?

[Dos Santos] The responsibilities of the president of the republic are defined in the constitution of the People's Republic of Angola. The responsibilities of the chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party are defined in the MPLA-Labor Party statutes. Obviously, under the terms of our laws, the chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party is automatically president of the People's Republic of Angola. On the other hand, the president of the republic is the commander in chief of the armed forces. Accordingly, the president of the republic carries out the policy defined by the MPLA-Labor Party. We draw up our policy collectively. Thus, naturally, the question of individual, personal responsibility or responsibility by a single citizen or leader does not arise. In other words, essential decisions connected with our country's political, economic, and social life are made collectively at party level. With regard to the implementation of this policy by the state apparatus, the government also approves laws and decrees collectively. It is only at the ministerial level that the ministers are responsible for the implementation of the policy generally defined by the party and transformed into legal documents by the People's Assembly and Congresses. In brief, all I want to say is that one can never say that the present situaiton of the People's Republic of Angola is the responsibility of one single person. We are a democratic and popular state; and when I referred to the party, I meant that the general guidelines for economic and social development and the guidelines of our party's foreign policy are approved during congresses.

I should also like to mention that, in our case, there is one particular point that we must take into account. Although the guidelines are drafted by the party, the discussion of all such drafts is open to, extended to, and conducted by all the people, all Angolan workers. Accordingly, these general guidelines approved in congresses are then implemented by the executive organs at party and state levels. We demand personal or individual accountability when the citizens charged with their implementation fail. This happens during the mandate of every head or leader. In my case, I can only be held responsible for a failure or shortcoming if I do not carry out tasks assigned to me by the party leadership or the People's Assembly.

Insert the following passage before paragraph one, right column.

In another way, let us take the case of Italy. Perhaps it will be better understood. To accept such a policy would be to admit that the Red Brigades, for example, would be accepted as a party by the various parties dominating the Italian political scene. It would also mean that the French state, the French Government, would consider as a valid party the so-called Action Directe and accept negotiations for their participation in the government. Thus, we think that here it is a matter of principles. We are an internationally recognized government and cannot allow other countries to organize Angolan citizens and train and supply them with weapons of destruction. I think that to accept this position

would mean to act against one of the fundamental principles governing the international community. In brief, it would be to accept anarchy and disorder.

Insert the following passage on page U 2, left column after paragraph one, last line.

[Reporter] Mr President: One of the biggest indictments against UNITA is that (?it receives support and) military aid [words indistinct] otherwise it would rapidly disappear. However, could not the enemies of Angola say the same about the power of the MPLA?

[Dos Santos] No, because this is not about the power of the MPLA. This is about the Angolan people's power. We are a state with legal institutions. We are a state with institutions. I can even say that we are a nation. It is not, therefore, possible to compare a state with a group, or a political group. It is not even possible to compare a state with a party. Thus, when we establish relations with other countries we do it on the basis of the principles governing relations among independent and sovereign states. It is on this basis, naturally, that we sign cooperation accords [words indistinct] We are a legitimate and internationally recognized entity. We cannot accept being compared with a (?group). I suppose that you journalists have enough material to properly characterize a gang that was created by the Portuguese colonialists in order to hinder the national liberation struggle. It tried to come to power by force in 1975, but did not succeed because the Angolan people did not permit it; so it turned to racist South Africa in order to [words indistinct] the Angolan people.

Insert the following passage on page U 2, left column after the last line of the last paragraph.

[Reporter] As the president of the state of Angola you chose a single party (?system) [words indistinct] adhere to the Lome Convention and the EEC, yet receives military aid from the Soviet Union. How does Angola plan to deal with its problems and become a modern country?

[Dos Santos] We have a one-party state, but that does not mean that we are not a democratic and popular government. We are a one-party state for reasons which are related to our point in time and also our historic phase. Even though [words indistinct] during the first years of national reconstruction, there was the need for a strong power [words indistinct] capable of rebuilding the nation, which is our party's duty. Finally, regarding development issues, we are a country seeking to develop relations with all peoples of the world [words indistinct] and, through this policy of cooperation, we hope to bring to Angola that which we lack, so that we may build a modern country, with a democratic government, and a prosperous and (?cultured) society.

Correction to Dos Santos Speech to Assembly

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Dos Santos Reviews People's Assembly Session" published in the 2 December Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT:

page U 1, right column, paragraph one, antepenultimate line through last line reads: ...administrative state organs give periodic accounts of their activities to the People's Assembly. (rephrasing)

paragraph two, lines two through six read: cadres and structures to facilitate their relationship with the working committees of the People's Assembly, and emphasize the need to improve the linking and cooperation mechanisms between the People's Assembly Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers. (rephrasing)

same paragraph, lines six through eight read: ...mechanisms for deputies to regularly visit their constituencies and give account of their work, thus... (rephrasing)

paragraph three, lines three and four read: ...difficulties currently limiting the capacity of the deputies to perform their duties. In most cases ... (rephrasing)

page U 2, left column, paragraph one, last line reads: ...known agent of terrorism in the pay...(changing word "imperialism" to "terrorism")

paragraph two, lines eight and nine read: ...economic development of our fatherland, so that we...(rewording)

MOZAMBIQUE

Iranian Oil 'Not Yet Arrived' in Maputo

MB021832 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] A high-level government delegation from Iran is in Maputo for talks on strengthening cooperation with Mozambique. The delegation, led by Iranian Trade Minsiter Hasan Abedi Ja'fari, arrived in the Mozambican capital yesterday and began talks with a team of Mozambican officials headed by Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso. Mr Veloso said he considers the visit by the Iranians as a chance to deepen bilateral relations. Mr Ja'fari said Iran gives priority to cooperation with Third World countries, especially the Frontline States which face aggression by South Africa.

Ties between Maputo and Tehran over the past year have been overshadowed by the fact that, despite high hopes at the beginning of 1986, Iranian oil has not yet arrived in Maputo. President Joaquim Chissano last year, as foreign minister, visited Iran and signed an agreement on the supply of oil on 10 February to Mozambique. An official in the Mozambican Ministry of Cooperation said there have been various difficulties in the process of getting oil to Maputo. She did not say what kind of difficulties have been experienced. Sources in the Cooperation Minsitry say when Iran's president, Ali Khamene'i, visited Mozambique in January this year, no bilateral cooperation agreement was signed with the late President Samora Machel.

The apparent failure of the oil agreement and possible new areas of cooperation are expected to be discussed during the stay in

Maputo of the Iranian delegation, which is scheduled to leave Mozambique tomorrow.

Council of Ministers Approves Laws, Decrees

MB030745 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] The Council of Ministers met in Maputo yesterday. It examined and approved the draft law on national private investment and will submit the government's draft decree on national investment for approval by the People's Assembly.

The 16th government session also examined and approved the council of ministers draft decree regulating direct foreign investment as well as a draft decree on the delegation of authority by the government to grant permission for investment projects. The session also examined the decree on land laws as well as laws on taxes arising from land utilization and localization of water and agricultural infrastructures.

NAMIBIA

SWATF Denies 'Organized' Part in Katutura Riot

MB021036 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0845 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Windhoek, Dec 2, SAPA — A spokesman for the SWA Territory Force today denied that the SWATF had been involved on an organised basis in Sunday's violence that broke out at a SWAPO political rally in Katutura township outside Windhoek.

SWAPO's national chairman, Mr Daniel Tjongarero, said yesterday that members of the Ovambo 101 batallion had attacked people at the rally. After they had left, Mr Tjongarero said, police reinforcements in Casspir armoured vehicles moved in to disperse the meeting.

The SWATF spokesman said in Windhoek: "We deny in the strongest possible terms that the SWATF or any of its units had been involved on an organised basis in Sunday's unrest."

RSA 'Not Averse' To Allowing Elections in Owambo

MB021012 Windhoek THE WINDHOEK AVERTISER in English 28 Nov 86 p 1

["SA Could go for Owambo Elections, but ..." — by Jim Freeman]

[Text] South Africa is not averse to allowing second-tier elections in Owambo next year, in order to allow Administration chairman Mr Peter Kalangula to guage accurately his support among the people of the region.

The Administrator-General, Mr Louis Pienaar, said he would "not be amiss to offering Mr Kalangula an election, and I think I could convince the South African authorities that such an election be allowed."

Mr Pienaar's statement to *The Advertiser* follows flat-out attempts on the part of the South African representatives in Namibia during the past year to broaden the involvement in the latest constitutional initiative.

Mr Kalangula said at Ondangwa recently that he would only participate in the national constitutional debate if he could obtain an Owambo mandate to try and shape the future for Namibia's largest population group.

However, the fly in the ointment of second-tier elections seems to be the Transitional Government [TG] itself.

"The decision to hold elections doesn't lie with me or South Africa, but with the Transitional Government," said Mr Pienaar.

Asked whether he thought the Transitional Government was willing to broaden its constitutional debate appeal to include Mr Kalangula's Christian Democratic Action for Social Justice party, the Administrator-General said: "They have not proved up to now that they are really prepared to accomodate anybody else."

Mr Pienaar stated firmly that the Office of the Administrator-General would pursue its policy of trying to draw more political parties into the constitutional debate.

Observers say the present transitional administration is worthless while it fails to represent about 70 percent of the Namibian people — namely the Owambos, Damaras and Kavangos.

They added that the Transitional Government was selling itself "as a car without wheels" to the world.

Mr Pienaar said while the South African government had granted the TG the right to seek an alternative to the United Nations settlement plan for Namibia — if the world would buy it — the South Africans were still firmly committed to their UN Security Council Resolution 435 commitments.

SOUTH AFRICA

Activist's Murder 'Culmination' of Past Events

MB021650 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 2 Dec 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] In South Africa, a leading anti-apartheid activist and his wife have been shot and killed by gunmen. The couple are Dr Fabian Ribeiro and his wife, Barbara, the sister of Robert Sobukwe, the late leader of the banned Pan-Africanist Congress, PAC. The couple were gunned down in their house in Mamelodi township, near the capital, Pretoria. Who the killers were was not immediately clear, but the PAC says it was the work of the United Democratic Front UDF, one of the biggest anti-apartheid movements inside South Africa.

Julian Borja asked (Michael Mwendani), of the PAC's Central Committee, why they were accusing the UDF.

[Begin recording] [(Mwendani)] Well, what we are saying actually is that the UDF is being used by the South African Communist Party to hide in and it is ... [changes thought] They influence members of the UDF to do things like this to a people who belong to the Africanists or the Black Consciousness persuasion in the country.

[Borja] But do you have any hard evidence that the UDF is involved in this murder?

[(Mwendani)] Well, we do have indications because, I mean, Dr Ribeiro has been a victim in the past and he has been followed, he has been threatened in the past by these people, that he must cease, you know, articulating the Africanist point of view or the Black Consciousness point of view, and we know that he has been threatened in the past, we know that he has been attacked in the past and this is simply a culmination of what has been taking place over the last 2 years.

[Borja] You say he has been threatened in the past and attacked in the past, but do you know that he has been threatened and atacked by the UDF?

[(Mwendani)] Well, he has been threatened by people who are associated with the South African Communist Party, that we know very, very well.

[Borja] And why should the UDF want to kill someone like Dr Ribeiro?

[(Mwendani)] Well, let me repeat that the South African Communist Party, which has infiltrated the UDF and is using members of the UDF to do certain things that promote the aims of the South African Communist Party. [as heard] Now, what's happened is this: the South African Communist Party had a deal that it had up its sleeve to make with the South African Government, using a certain organization. Now, they realize that the Black Consciousness movement as well as the PAC would stand in the way of this deal. They would put the spanner in the works, and the aim is really to try to eliminate the Africanist movement or cow them down sufficiently so that now when this deal that they want to make with the South African Government comes about, there should be nobody that would oppose it and put the spanner in the works. That is the whole aim of the South African Communist Party.

[Borja] This all sounds very far-fetched, the idea that the South African Government will make a deal with a communist party?

[(Mwendani)] You'll be surprised, you'll be surprised what kind of people the South African Communist Party has already met. They have spoken to the Broederbond [Secret Afrikaner Brotherhood], they have influenced a certain organization to meet with bantustan leaders who have got nothing to do with the liberation of this country and all sorts of people have been met with, you know, by a certain organization under the influence of the South African Communist Party. So these, therefore, are clear indicators. In fact, we know (?of these) for a long time, but these are clear indicators that the South African Communist Party has these aims and it is true that they have them.[end recording]

Man Who Gave Nuclear 'Secrets' to ANC Released

MB021216 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1140 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 2, SAPA — Dr Renfrew Christie was released from Pretoria prison on Sunday, after serving six of the 10 years to which he had been sentenced for handing over nuclear secrets to the ANC. A Supreme Court application was still pending at the time of his release that he be released on the grounds of the offer by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, that Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners who renounced violence would be released. It could not be established in Pretoria today on what grounds Dr Christie, 36, had been freed.

Dr Christie, a former Cape Town University researcher, told a Johannesburg newspaper that he would like to see the ANC legalised. "I do think Botha is wrong when he says the ANC lacks majority support. But that cannot be tested while it is underground." Dr Christie was reported to be at his mother's house in Johannesburg, where he is still considering his future.

Soweto Wall Project To Cost 750,000 Rand

MB021222 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1044 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 2 SAPA — The six kilometre concrete fence being constructed along the N1 concrete highway dividing Soweto's Diepkloof extension and the Johannesburg suburb of Crown Gardens is costing about R100,000 per kilometre, the Department of Transport confirmed in Pretoria today. The department's director of operations (National Roads) Mr S.A. Gerber, said the total cost of the project was in the region of R750,000. This included about R50,000 spent on a first, wire-strand fence and the R100,000 spent on a second, diamond mesh fence — both of which failed to keep pedestrians and animals off the highway as the structures were destroyed.

Mr Gerber reiterated denials from the authorities yesterday that the concrete fence was being constructed to enclose the black township, as alleged in weekend newspaper reports. He said the road ordinance compelled highways to be fenced off at the peripheries, and said that concrete walls, as opposed to fences, had already been constructed along highways bordering white residential areas.

The Soweto fence project was part of a wider, nine-month contract awarded to a construction company in July. The contract included maintenance and repair work to the concrete slabs on the section of highway.

Dhlomo Tired of 'Arrogance' of NUSAS Leaders

MB021220 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0939 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Durban, Dec 2, SAPA — "Fat Cat" white students who claimed to be fighting for black advancement were nothing more

than elitist hypocrites, the acting chief minister of KwaZulu, Dr Oscar Dhlomo, said today. Reacting to an attack by National Union of South African Students [NUSAS] President Mr Brendon Barry in Pietermaritzburg yesterday, in which the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba was described as "Elitist and undemocratic," Dr Dhlomo said blacks were sick and tired of such arrogance. Dr Dhlomo is also the KwaZulu representative at the Indaba.

"What can Mr Barry tell us about elitism when he and his fellow members in NUSAS attended elitist white schools, live in elitist white suburbs and attend elitist white universities?" he asked.

"We are sick and tired of the arrogance of white pseudo-liberals like Mr Barry who claim to be speaking on behalf of blacks during the day, but disappearing into their elitist white suburbs at night and thank God for the Nationalist Party." Dr Dhlomo said it was significant that in spite of NUSAS's claim to be fighting for non-racialism, NUSAS had no black members and never a black president throughout their decades of existence. Consequently, Inkatha had long since ceased to take NUSAS seriously. "To us, NUSAS is an elitist, bourgeois and racially exclusive white student organisation which uses slogans of democratic and progressive black political forces to gain credibility.

"During my university days I knew many white student leaders in NUSAS who claimed to be political champions of the black underdogs. When they completed their studies they either became capitalist fat cats or police informers. I wonder why Mr Barry expects Inkatha to treat him differently."

UDF Treasurer Served With Restriction Orders

MB021948 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1933 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 2 SAPA — A restriction order was today served on on Mr Azhar Cachalia, the National treasurer of the United Democratic Front. The order restricts Mr Cachalia from participating in the following campaigns of the UDF and the following organisations: the Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee; the National Education Union of South Africa; the Fedration of Transvaal Women; End Conscription Campaign; Detainees Support Committee; Detainees Parents Support Committee and the Black Sash.

In terms of the order Mr Cachalia is restricted from taking part in any of the following campaigns: the release of political prisoners or detainees; an end to the state of emergency; unbanning of the ANC; withdrawal of the SADF from the townships; resignation of members of the House of Representatives and the House of Delegates; Compulsory military service; the yellow ribbon campaign and the campaign for national united action which the UDF has undertaken in collaboration with the SACC [South African Council of Churches] and COSATU.

Mr Cachalia was banned for five years in 1981 in terms of the Internal Security Act and was also detained for one and a half months at the beginning of the state of emergency. He said the order comes at a time when the UDF has just announced its major Christmas against the emergency campaign. "It is also part of the sustained campaign of harassment of activists of the UDF and its affiliates," Mr Cachalia said.

Commentary: Moderate Blacks 'Fear Retaliation'

MB030545 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 03 Dec 86

[Station Commentary]

[Text] That moderate blacks fear retaliation if they should express their views openly has been observed often enough. But it has taken a surprising turn in in a new opinion poll to show just how widespread and deeprooted the phenomenon is. In a countrywide survey among urban blacks, remarkable in itself for the findings it came up with, more than half the people approached refused to answer any questions on political matters.

Describing this as a striking response, Mr Henry Barenblatt of the Omnicheck research group commented: Obviously one cannot discount the fear and intimidation factor in the black community. Fear of victimization has in effect imposed self-censorship on the political debate among many moderate blacks — which makes the findings of the Omnicheck poll all the more noteworthy.

Even among those who did respond, three-quarters expressed their preference for ending apartheid by negotiation rather than by violence, and for a multiracial form of government rather than an all-black government. If there were no intimidation 93 per cent of urban black parents would want their children to be in school. Although two-thirds of urban black men heeded calls to stay away from work, even if they did so only occasionally, the detailed findings caused the research unit to conclude that if the element of intimidation were removed the figures might reflect a different picture.

Indeed, says Mr Barenblatt, the most heartening aspect of responses from blacks who were willing to express a viewpoint away from the threat of intimidation is the degree of goodwill and opinions that reflect a great deal of political pragmatism. That this sentiment comes through so clearly in spite of the fears of the moderates is certainly encouraging for all who desire a peaceful and equitable resolution of this country's problems. But it is also deeply disturbing that the sentiment is so inadequately voiced in public debate.

The leader of the research group says their findings have exploded a number of myths about black attitudes on key political issues. But the myths exist because the truth is so little heard; and the truth goes unheard because moderates, with every justification, are afraid to make their views known.

If more than half the people approached in a confidential survey are so frightened of intimidation that they choose not to speak, how much harder is it to speak out openly? When fear inhibits even private conversation, who dares to challenge directly the cause of that fear by taking a public stand on behalf of his people? Is it any wonder that moderate black leaders are so wary of becoming involved in open political negotiations?

The intimidatory tactics of the radicals in the urban black communities give them an influence in South African political affairs that is grossly disproportionate to their numbers. While they continue to operate unchecked the myths about black attitudes in South Africa will persist, and the spokesmen for the moderate majority will remain silent.

Upgrading of Black Townships 'Progressing Well'

MB021453 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1446 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 2 SAPA — The upgrading of black townships in the Eastern Cape over the past few months has been progressing well, according to a statement by the Bureau for Information. According to Dr C.F. Scheepers, chief executive director of the Department of Development and Planning and chairman of the Eastern Cape Strategic Development Team (ECSDT), it had identified 23 priority projects in black townships in the Eastern Cape in July this year. Thirteen of these projects are currently being implemented.

At an ECSDT meeting on November 13 it was also reported that rapid progress was being made with the upgrading of townships in the Ibhayi Council area, Motherwell and Kwadezi — about 60 per cent of the infrastructure (except electricity) has been provided. The ECSDT is investigating ways of allowing black communities to take part in its activities. Also, steps have been taken to involve Transkei and Ciskei in the activities of its sub-committees, said the statement. Dr Scheepers said the ECSDT was establishing a liaison committee for those areas outside Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage "to ensure that the rural regions have an effective say in the co-ordinating actions of the ECSDT."

Black Sash Demands Release of Child Detainees

MB021703 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1702 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 2 SAPA — Anti-apartheid organisations today demanded that the government immediately free an estimated 1300 to 1800 children held in detention. The demand was made to the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, and the minister of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, by a meeting hosted by the Black Sash in Johannesburg.

The detention of a child without trial and in an adult jail was "an obscenity," the Rev Peter Storey, the past president of the Methodist Church of SA, told the meeting. "It is an offence to God and it is the deepest shame we have had to live with as citizens of this country," he added. A short term goal was to support the campaign to "free the children", he told the audience of about 300. The ultimate goal was "to see the entire system of apartheid swept away for ever."

The campaign was launched by a broad alliance of organisations three weeks ago. Organisations represented included Women For Peace, the Detainees Parents Support Committee, the End Conscription Campaign, the National Education Union of SA, the PFP Youth, the Institute of Race Relations and Jews for Social Justice. Among those present today were author Nadine Gordimer, Rev Molefe Tsele of the National Education Crisis Committee, civil rights campaigner Mrs Helen Joseph, Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP MP for Houghton), Mr Sidney Kentridge, QC, SC, [Queen's Counsel, Senior Council] and Bishop Simeon Koane, Anglican bishop suffragan of Johannebsurg East.

Mr Geoffrey Budlender, director of the Legal Resources Centre, said detentions had taken place under unjustified circumstances. "It is unacceptable to us and to anyone who believes in the rule of law. The very principle of the system of detention is offensive and unacceptable." He described the conditions under which children were kept as "barbaric."

A father whose 13-year-old daughter is in detention said: "We are worried about our children who are detained. And we really dont know whether they will be released or not." A minister of religion whose 15-year-old daughter was detained five months ago and is being held at Diepkloof prison appealed for the release of the children.

The exact number of children in detention was unknown, said Mrs Sheena Duncan, immediate past president of the Black Sash and director of the Sash's advice office. She estimated that between 1300 and 1800 children under 18 years of age were in detention. More than 50 children in the Witwatersrand area were "missing" while 400 from the region were detained. "No one is going to pretend that all those who are under 18 who have been detained are little angels," Mrs Duncan said. "But civilised countries do not put children in prison. We demand freedom for our children. We will continue to work until that is accomplished."

Vlok Reviews Security Issues, Defends JMC's

MB021657 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1647 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 2 SAPA — Black consumer boycotts which were reportedly being organised for the Christmas season were illegal in terms of the state of emergency regulations and action could be expected against those who propagated them, the new minister of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, said today. The minister and his deputy, Mr Roelf Meyer, were speaking informally to journalists at the end of their second day in office on how they saw their taks and their plans for the future.

Asked whether, in the light of recent reports, police would be taking specific action against consumer boycotters, Mr Vlok said it was an individual's right to decide whether or not to buy goods from a particular shop. Propagating boycotts was, hoever, illegal in terms of the emergency. Asked if this meant boycott committees and organisers in the black townships "had better watch out," he replied: "You couldn't have put it better."

Both the minister and Mr Meyer emphasised they saw their priority to be improving the image of the police — particularly in the black townships — "as those who protect and serve." They hinted at a number of plans and ideas they had in mind but said it was too early yet to make details known. "Self-examination" by police of problems relating to their public image would

however also play an important role.

Mr Vlok said he would like to provide the public with the maximum possible information on what was happening in the country, as an informed public was vital, but said it had to be understood security considerations had to be taken into account.

The minister and Mr Meyer, who is responsible for administering the controversial Joint Security Management System [JSM], defended the setup and rejected sinister grass-roots political manipulation connotations attached to it recently in certain media reports. Mr Vlok said the system had been in operation for some six years already, but had only really come into its own over the last year. "There is no secrecy about it all ... details were disclosed in parliament this year," he said.

Mr Meyer explained that the JSM's "obviously" had to address issues in the political field, but that this was not the primary task. The main purpose of the system was to address grievances and problems in particularly the black townships on "a day to day basis" through coordinated action of various government departments and other institutions involved. The system consisted of some 400 Joint Management Centres, representing local leaders and authority representatives, including the security forces, at a grass-roots level and "on a non-political and non-racial basis."

Citing a number of examples in recent months of grievances and other problems being resolved as a direct result of the system's operation, Mr Vlok said it was proving to be highly successful. One of the major problems in the civil service was the long lines of communication and resultant delays in redressing grievances at community level — a situation which was frequently exploited by revolutionaries and instigators.

Although the system had no executive powers, Mr Meyer, as the person responsible for its impelemtation, was directly responsible to the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, and it operated at the highest levels between various government departments to ensure speedy action.

On allegations recently that the system was actively involved in undermining organisations like the United Democratic Front, and others, Mr Vlok responded by saying: "The system is working and acting for the benefit of the community, and in this regard, it will act against anybody working against the interests of the community."

Mr Vlok also responded to reports that the banned African National Congress was receiving more equipment from the Soviet Union to step up its insurgency campaign and said, "we are ready, as far as it is possible, for any escalation."

Three Homes of Inkatha Members Firebombed

MB030952 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0739 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Durban Dec 3 SAPA — A petrol bomb was thrown at the home of Mr Edward Mbata, mayor of Kwamakuta near Amanzimtoti, late last night — one of three such attacks on Inkatha members in the area in the past 48 hours. No one was injured but the house was extensively damaged by fire.

Yesterday morning, three children were seriously burned when two petrol bombs were thrown at the home of Mr E. Ngema. Mr Ngema's children, Goodman, 14, Gladys, 13, and Nombuzo, 4, sustained serious burns to their bodies.

In the third attack, the home of Kwazulus Chief Ministers praise-singer, Mr Ephraim Buthelezi, was also petrol-bombed and stoned. Damage was slight and no one was injured.

Information Bureau Issues 3 Dec Unrest Report

MB030945 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0937 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 3, SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's "Unrest report" for the period from 0001 on Dec 2 to 2400 on Dec 2:

"A security force member, Const. James Nkuneka (25) was found dead at the Tladi Training Centre in Soweto yesterday. He died of a bullet wound. The circumstances which led to his death, are, however, not known. Police investigations are continuing.

"Two explosions occurred on the steps of a pedestrian bridge across the railway line at the Wordsworth and Carlyle Ave intersection in Orkney.

"Two holes were ripped into the steps by the explosion in which commercial explosives were used. It is not known whether this incident is unrest-related. Police investigations are continuing.

"Other unrest-related incidents again comprised of isolated stone throwing and petrol bomb attacks reported in seven black townships. No injuries or arrests were reported.

"In order to end speculations concerning the murder of Dr and Mrs Ribeiro of Mamelodi (Pretoria), the SAP has requested all eyewitnesses as well as anyone with relevant information, to please bring this to the attention of the police.

"The SAP is in charge of the formal investigation, and speculation and allegations to and in the press will rather hamper than help the investigation."

Press Comments on Current Problems, Issues

MB030732 [Editorial report]

THE CITIZEN Criticizes Australian Racial Record

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 2 December comments on the Australian ban on South African landing rights saying "if South Africa deserves to be isolated and punished by the world, including Australia, one wonders why Australia doesn't get a bit of the sanctions medicine itself, for its racial record is pretty poor." "While the Aborigines have not been given much hope, South African Blacks have a great future ahead of them, economically, socially and politically. Our racism

in the past was bad; today the government has pledged to a reformist policy, which includes sharing power with Blacks as well as Coloureds and Indians."

THE STAR Commends Indaba Proposal

Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 2 December says in a page 14 editorial that the government may have its reservations on the Natal Indaba draft regional constitution but "President Botha and his Cabinet should think very hard before rejecting it out of hand. What the Indaba has achieved is an overwhelming consensus among the different groups in Natal and KwaZulu on a system of multiracial government." *The Star* says nothing the government has done in "constitution-making has made such dramatic and encouraging headway." "The Indaba is not a blueprint for South Africa, but it may be a model on which a regional system can be built. And it may contribute formulas for devising a national system."

Multinational Political Intervention Condemned

"The offer by BP [British Petroleum] Southern Africa to invest millions in two social development projects provided the Government makes two major changes to its policies in respect of group areas and the racial integration of state schools has certainly stirred up a hornet's nest," says Martin Spring in the "My View" column on the same page. Spring is concerned that multinations "should intervene directly in our political life." "Now, in South Africa, companies such as BP, General Motors and Eastman Kodak, in their various ways, have shown what has always been suspected, that multinationals are indeed willing to seek political ends to advance their corporate interests." Spring says that the multinationals' interference in South African politics is "cloaked in spurious morality," since their real reason for "anti-apartheid posturing and politicking is that they are desperate to get the critics off their backs in their parent countries." "It is time that we made clear to the multinationals that if they seek to poke their snouts into matters that are none of their business, and to complicate an already complex and unstable political situation then they will be made to pay heavily."

BUSINESS DAY on NP Rejection of Indaba

A page 4 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 2 December says that next year's election was not the main reason for the Natal NP's rejection of the KwaNatal Indaba. *Business Day* believes the NP "was always going to turn down the KwaNatal option, because the NP is not ready to consider that form of power-sharing, an probably never will be." Nothing that the Indaba's negotiators could come up with would have satisfied a party now firmly entrenched in the neo-apartheid philosophy of 'own affairs', the political partition which determines that no other race group will have any say in key matters affecting dominant whites." "If the NP really believes in a devolution of power, it should let Natal complete the Indaba, and put its proposals into effect, if they are supported in a provincial referendum."

BUSINESS DAY on Black Housing Shortage

"According to one estimate there's a surplus of 37,000 house in the white market, while thousands of blacks go homeless," says a second editorial on the same page. "Meanwhile, government is artifically stimulating the building of houses for whites by means of subsidy for first-time buyers." "The answer is to de-regulate and to scrap the Group Areas Act, thus allowing blacks and whites to become part of one market."

CAPE TIMES on Soweto Mayor Resignation

A page 10 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 1 December says the unexpected resignation of the major of Soweto, Ephraim Tshabalala, "represents another serious blow to the government's discredited and rapidly collapsing system of ethnic local government." *Cape Times* points out that Tshabalala has "for long been regarded by Africans as the doyen of the co-optive style of leadership which the government has been trying to cultivate." "The lesson for the government should be clear: Co-optive domination will never be able to replace popularly elected leaders on a non-racial franchise."

SOWETAN: Poll Shows Blacks Oppose Violence

The page 4 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in Afrikaans on 2 December says: "A nationwide poll has shown that 74 percent of blacks prefer to see and end to apartheid by negotiation rather than violence. At the same time thousands of Afrikaners at a meeting of the Afrikaans Weerstandsbeweging [AWB] declared that they are prepared to fight for the retention of apartheid." But *Sowetan* believes that there are blacks who also "have the same feelings of radicalims as members of the AWB, and if "things go on as they are" there is every reason to believe that the AWB will perhaps be "destroyed by violent revolution." "We do not wish to tamper with anybody's culture or life-style. We only demand a full share in the running of our lives. We believe the way our lives are being run today is both wasteful and extremely dangerous to this country's future stability."

DIE VADERLAND Calls for NGK Unity

A page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *Die Vaderland* in Afrikaans on 1 December says "there must surely be sympathy for those members of the Dutch reformed Church (NGK) who are disturbed by the recent decision of the synods that the church should be 'open.' For some members it looks like a left turn which estranges them from the church." However, "to worsen an emotional situation by protests, other action, and even threaten that a separate 'Afrikaans' church will be formed is not the solution." The church already has to deal with an attack from the left so to "rip it apart now, can only be viewed as highly irresponsible behavior."

DIE REPUBLIKEIN Blames SWAPO for Rally Violence

A page 4 editorial in Windhoek *Die Republikein* in Afrikaans on 1 December says that there are differing opinions within SWAPO. "There is an internal wing which moves around like a peace dove in an attempt to gain voting power. There is the external wing which sends up the smoke signals of violence." *Die Republikein* says these differences have to lead to tension within a party, "especially when the moment of truth strikes, such as the gathering at Katutura." The paper says SWAPO will have to do more than just blame the police for the violence. "This time the police had to act to stop the spreading of violence which was ignited by SWAPO members."

ZIMBABWE

AFP: Frontline States Assured of Soviet Support

HK030154 Hong Kong AFP in English 0147 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Text] Harare, Dec. 3 (AFP) — Zimbabwe and the other Frontline States of southern Africa allied against apartheid are assured of support from the Soviet Union, according to a visiting member of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party.

K.S. Demirchian said at a press conference Tuesday that the Frontline States could count on Soviet aid to counter South African destabilisation as well as outright aggression.

"In due time and in due amount, aid will be promptly provided," said Mr. Demirchian. He did not specify if he was talking about military aid, which is what frontline state Mozambique needs most at this point to counter the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) movement.

The possibility of Soviet military aid to Mozambique and to Zimbabwe, which has about 6,000 troops in central Mozambique to protect installations against the rebels, was raised recently when a Zimbabwean security delegation visited Moscow.

But Mr. Demirchian's response indicated that the U.S.S.R. would try to avoid further military involvement. He said the Soviet Union did not view war as a means of solving international problems because the international situation was characterized by a series of new problems which demanded "a new political mentality and a rejection of the idea that war is a means of solving problems."

Harare Denies BBC Correspondent's Report on MNR

MB021055 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1954 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Harare, Dec 1, SAPA — The Zimbabwean Government this evening dissociated itself from reports about the operations of the Mozambican National Resistance Movement reported on the BBC by a freelance Zimbabwean journalist, ZIANA, the semi-official news agency, reports.

The Ministry of Information, Posts and Telecommunications, which annually accredits all local and foreign journalist working in the country, said in a statement Mr Tim Lambon was not a Zimbabwean citizen nor did he live or work in Zimbabwe.

"Our information is that he was a member of the Rhodesian Army before independence and is now a member of the South African Army. He lives in Johannesburg."

The ministry spokesman also expressed surprise that the BBC "colluded directly with South Africa and gave publicity to the blatant lies and false propaganda from a mercenary and a renegade."

Government Raises Bread Prices by 11 Percent

MB021338 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] The price of bread went up today by 11 percent. A statement issued in Harare by the Ministry of Trade and Commerce said the retail price of a loaf of white bread goes up from 45 to 50 cents. The price of a loaf of brown bread is up by 3 cents to 36 cents. The statement says the flour millers and master bakers had requested a price increase of 27 percent, but the government compromised with an increase of 11 percent.

The government says the increase will ensure that the flour millers and bakers will remain viable while consumers continue to obtain bread at a reasonable and affordable price. The government said because local farmers grow insufficient wheat to meet the local demands, additional wheat has to be purchased at very high prices.

Norway Firm Wins Telecommunications Contract

MB021450 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] A 30-million rand contract for the construction of the SADCC's telecommunications and microwave project has been awarded to a Norwegian firm. The contract, whose purpose is to improve telecommunications service in the participating countries, was signed in Harare. Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique are the contracting parties in the project.